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# The Guardian

EUROPE

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## Mandelson, the minister and the secret £373,000 loan



Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, left, who lent £373,000 to his colleague Peter Mandelson, the Trade Secretary, to buy his £475,000 home in Notting Hill, London

### Blair and Whitehall not told about deal for two years

David Hencke, Ewen MacArthur and Seamus Milne

**C**ABINET minister Peter Mandelson is involved in a secret financial arrangement with his beleaguered government colleague Geoffrey Robinson concerning a loan of £373,000 to buy his London home, a Guardian investigation can disclose.

The extraordinary deal was not disclosed for more than two years to Tony Blair, despite the crucial political relationship and close personal friendship between Mr Mandelson and the Prime Minister. Key Whitehall officials were also kept in the dark until a few days ago.

Mr Mandelson and Mr Robinson issued statements to the Guardian last night confirming the loan. Its disclosure will intensify pressure on Mr Robinson, the Paymaster General, who has been at the centre of a string of revelations about his tax and business affairs.

Mr Mandelson insisted that there was nothing wrong with the loan. He said: "At all times I have protected the integrity and professionalism of the DTI. Geoffrey Robinson asked for confidentiality and I respected that. I do not believe that accepting a loan from a friend and fellow member of parliament was wrong. There is no conflict of interest in this. The loan was

always intended to be a short-term arrangement and I am in the process of repaying the remainder of the loan in full with the help of my mother."

Mr Robinson said: "Peter Mandelson, a friend of long standing, asked me for help in 1996. I was in a position to help through a loan and did so with the understanding that it would be repaid in full in due course. That is all there was and there is to it."

Mr Mandelson paid back £40,624 in spring 1997, and is in the process of paying back the rest. The loan was given at Midland Bank base rate, which is substantially lower than the market mortgage rate. He would not have been able to borrow the same sum from an ordinary lender and has so far saved at least £10,000 in interest payments.

Mr Mandelson has left himself vulnerable by failing to tell the Prime Minister or the permanent secretary of the loan until last week. He faces accusations of at least two possible areas of conflict of interest. The first involves allegations in September that Mr

Robinson's businesses breached company law, a matter that would result in investigation by the DTI and mean one minister sitting in judgment on another. However, Mr Mandelson attempted to put himself in the clear by telling the permanent secretary at the time that he would rule himself out of any investigation.

Nevertheless he did not disclose the loan to the permanent secretary because, he told the Guardian last night, "I was satisfied that any conflict of interest had been properly dealt with."

The second area of potential conflict involves a DTI independent inspectors' report into the Maxwell empire, to which Mr Robinson was Turn to page 2, column 7

Peters' friends, pages 2 and 3

## Lockerbie trial setback Clinton's poll rating soars

Ian Black and Mark Tran in New York

**H**OPES for a handover of the Lockerbie bombing suspects suffered a fresh blow last night when Colonel Muammar Gaddafi said he wanted an international court and not the Scottish trial being prepared in the Netherlands.

As relatives gathered in the United States, Lockerbie and Westminster, the 270 dead on the 10th anniversary of the downing of Pan Am 103, the Libyan leader appeared to be laying down new conditions. "An international court is the solution, with judges from America, Libya, England and other countries," Col Gaddafi said in the interview with NQ5 television, recorded a week ago.

Britain and the US last night threatened Libya with tougher sanctions unless it hands over the suspects, Abdel Baset al-Megrahi and Al-Amin Khalifah Fhimah, by February, when the UN Security Council reviews sanctions against Tripoli.

By then, the US said, Libya would have had six months to accept the Anglo-American offer of a trial in the Netherlands.

Speaking at a desert camp Col Gaddafi said he did not rule out reaching a compromise with Britain and the US. "The door must stay open. We're not saying no," he said. "We will do everything to reach a solution."

Kofi Annan, the UN secretary-general, met Col Gaddafi on December 5 to press him to agree to a trial in the Netherlands before Scottish judges. But Col Gaddafi appeared to be contradicting a decision last week by the country's General People's Congress, ostensibly Libya's decision-making body, saying that it had accepted the US-British offer, and calling on them to overcome obstacles.

President Clinton, speaking in a solemn ceremony at Arlington, National Cemetery, said if Libya had not handed the two suspects over for trial by February, "we will work for yet stronger measures against Libya."

Britain echoed Mr Clinton's warning. Sir Jeremy Greenstock, the British ambassador to the UN, said: "Almost four months have passed. Our patience is not unlimited. We will ask the Security Council to look again at this issue, when it next reviews the sanctions."

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# that bought a £475,000 home

## House remade as modernist shrine

continued from page 2

Commons, it certainly didn't seem to bother Mr Mandelson. For a start, he found himself surrounded by friends.

Sir Ian Wigglesworth, a member of the board at Prima and now chairman of the cash-for-access lobbyist firm GPC, and his wife Lady Patricia, live next door. His confidante Carla Powell, the wife of Sir Charles Powell, Baron

ess Thatcher's former private secretary, is close by for weekend coffee breaks.

John Birt, director-general of the BBC and Mr Mandelson's boss when they both worked at LWT in the early 1980s, lives within walking distance, as does Michael Jackson, the chief executive of Channel Four.

Locals have bemoaned the influx of wealthy executives in recent years, but

the area hasn't lost all of its bohemian charm. Helen Fielding, the author of *Bridget Jones's Diary*, rents offices around the corner, the crime writer R.F. Keating and the art historian Christopher Wright still live nearby.

Having bought the three-bedroom house, Mr Mandelson took enormous pride in decorating it. The minister is a minimalist by nature, and he called in 38-year-old Mr Stein, a protégé of Richard Rogers and Norman Foster, to effect the transformation from cosy family home to modernist shrine.

Mr Stein likes straight, simple, sleek lines, and cluttered rooms. "I think



Mandelson's neighbours in Notting Hill: John Birt, Ian Wigglesworth and Carla Powell

people want serenity, restfulness and repose in their homes," he said, shortly before Mr Mandelson hired him.

ing feels like a refreshing event, kitchens where cooking is a complete pleasure. That's what I try to do."

Mr Mandelson bought much of the furniture himself, including an £1,800 tanned leather "Balzac" armchair by Matthew Hilton from the shop Space. He was also enthralled by a number of black and

white prints from the Special Photographers Company in Notting Hill.

Chris Kewhank, the owner, remembers the minister buying a 1938 Wolf gang Suschitzky of people at a Lyon Corner House. Everyone who has crossed the threshold has been impressed.

"The house is huge and it has a lovely kitchen," said one visitor who was allowed a brief glimpse inside. Mr Mandelson even helped to organise a summer street party last year, when trestle tables were laid out for the food, and Ben Bradshaw, the MP for Exeter, entertained guests with an over-enthusiastic hokey-cokey.

Notting Hill is Mandelson country all right. But the question that swirled around the bars at Westminster was: How on earth did Peter pay for it?

## Caught in a battle of cabinet giants

Man in the middle: Robinson's part in feud between Brown and Mandelson **Ewen MacAskill and Seumas Milne report**

IT IS Geoffrey Robinson's fate to find himself at the centre of the most enduring and explosive internal conflict at the heart of the Government.

Tony Blair tried to end the feud between his Chancellor, Gordon Brown, and his closest political ally, Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Mandelson, in the July reshuffle.

But the truce, such as it was, barely survived the summer and now, as a result of the latest revelations, the stage is set for full-scale hostilities to be rekindled.

For the two most powerful politicians after Mr Blair to be at war is destabilising and dangerous for the Government. Mr Robinson is a friend of both.

His relationship with Mr Mandelson goes back 20 years, but he is also a Treasury minister and a key member of Mr Brown's "hotel group" — the core coterie of his closest advisers who meet regularly in Mr Robinson's

suite at the Grosvenor House Hotel.

Neither side is out to get him personally — he just happens to be in the way as the bullets fly.

Already vulnerable from a stream of revelations about his business dealings and tax arrangements, Mr Robinson could end up the main casualty from the disclosure of his low-interest loan for Mr Mandelson.

Mr Mandelson will inevitably be undermined by the exposure of his private loan with Mr Robinson.

Although he would rather it had not come out, there may be a plus side.

His camp believes that the story of his home loan is the main selling point of a hostile biography by the Mirror journalist Paul Routledge, scheduled for serialisation in the Sunday Times next month, and that sting has now been drawn.

At the beginning of this year, a semi-authorised biography of the Chancellor by

Mr Routledge — who is a close friend of Gordon Brown's chief press officer, Charlie Whelan — led to recriminations between the Blair and Brown camps, after it highlighted Mr Brown's continuing bitterness at Mr Blair's capture of the Labour leadership four years ago.

The leadership race — and Mr Mandelson's decision to campaign for Mr Blair, rather than his other longstanding protégé, Mr Brown — was the origin of the feud.

Even though Mr Mandelson does not know who leaked the details of the loan to *The Guardian*, he and his allies are likely to blame the Brown camp.

Mr Whelan is already widely believed to have co-operated with Mr Routledge over his Mandelson book, though the Chancellor's press secretary has been anxious to distance himself from the project.

Mr Whelan did not leak information about the private loan to the *Guardian*.

While many journalists are drawn to him as an alternative voice in an administration otherwise defined by centralised control, Downing Street regard him as a maverick.

The summer reshuffle was the first serious blow to Mr Brown's power base, stopping just short of humiliation. Out went Mr Brown's key lieutenant, Nick Brown, the chief whip, was transferred to Agriculture; Nigel Griffiths, consumer affairs minister, and Tom Clarke, film and tourism minister, were both sacked.

Doug Henderson was shifted from the key post of minister for Europe to minister for the armed forces.

Mr Brown had to fight hard to keep Mr Robinson and Mr Whelan, who Downing Street hoped would adopt a lower profile. "He has been put in his cage and he had better stay there," a Downing Street aide said.

Mr Blair also sought to help heal the breach between Mr Mandelson and Mr Brown by

asking the Chancellor to tell Mr Mandelson of his cabinet promotion in the hope this might improve relations between the two.

For a while, the move seemed to have been effective. But two inter-departmental

spats between the Treasury and the Trade and Industry Department have stoked the tensions.

Treasury sources were cited in media reports this autumn arguing that Mr Mandelson's power to rule in com-

petition cases should be removed and pointing to his closeness to business interests.

More recently, Treasury sources were quoted blaming Mr Mandelson — who has himself been heard complain-

ing in public about the Brown camp — for "bottling out" of privatising the Post Office, while elsewhere the Chancellor was said by the same sources to have saved the Post Office from privatisation.



Brought to book... Biography of Gordon Brown by a friend of Charlie Whelan (right) led to recriminations between the Blair and Brown camps

## Terms brought £10,000 saving

### THE LOAN: Bank base rate deal that few borrowers could expect

BY REPAYING the interest on the £373,000 loan from Geoffrey Robinson at a rate equivalent to bank base rate, Peter Mandelson would have saved himself almost £10,000 compared to an ordinary borrower paying the standard mortgage rate.

Whatever the interest rate, no mainstream lender would have offered someone earning £40,000-a-year a £373,000 mortgage.

Assuming the loan started in November 1996 and the first payment was due in the December, the interest alone for the first instalment would be £1,865 on base rate. This compares to £2,172 for someone with a £373,000 loan from the Halifax on its standard variable rate — a difference of £307.

The repayment of £40,000 in the spring of 1997 would have cut the payments. The gap widened out by the start of this year.

In January 1998 the monthly interest payment on the base rate-linked loan would have been £2,011, while for the Halifax borrower it would have been £2,414 — a difference of £403.

Interest rates continued to rise but then held steady for a few months before starting to



Mandelson's other home in his Hartlepool constituency

fall, bringing lower payments in October-November this year.

This month's payment on the base rate-linked loan would be £1,734, while for the Halifax borrower it would be £2,276 — some £541 more.

Over the 25 months the loan has been in force and assuming the £40,000 repayment was made on April 1 1997, the total interest paid on the loan

would be £49,580 in the case of the base rate-linked arrangement and £59,580 for the Halifax borrower.

This works out at a difference of £9,999. Alliance & Leicester said it would lend 3.75 times the salary if the loan was less than 75 per cent of the property's value. Otherwise it is limited to 3.3 times salary.

The bank said that it would

take other earnings and prospects for the future into account, and on someone earning £50,000 a year (MP's salary with some journalism/other earnings), with the hope of more, it might lend £200,000.

No home loans company would fund the gap between that figure and the £373,000, but other lenders can be found who would bridge the two figures if the borrower could come up with other forms of collateral such as a business, an investment portfolio, art or even the prospect of a large inheritance. However, borrowers would have to expect to pay 3 or 4 per cent higher interest rates than the mortgage.

The Nationwide Building Society said it would be "very unlikely" to lend someone on £40,000-a-year the sum of £373,000.

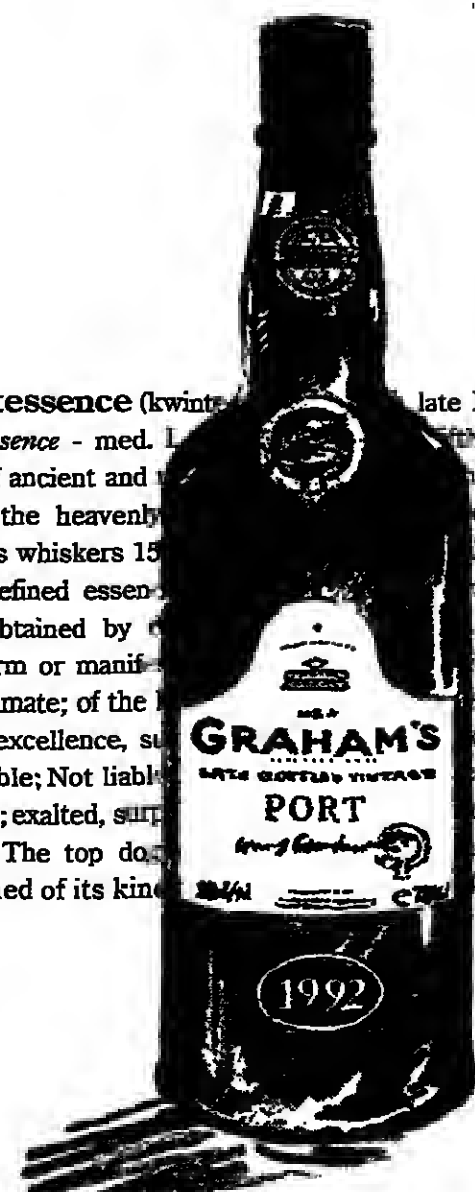
"As a fairly rough guide we would work on 3.25 times a person's income. If it was £40,000 they could expect that we would lend them up to about £130,000, based on their total earnings," said a spokeswoman for the building society.

But if the person intended to get another loan for the amount needed to bridge the gap between the £130,000 and £373,000, this would almost certainly affect the calculations.

MPs are something of a special case. Their "contract" might be renewed by the voters but then again it might not. In November 1996 there was no guarantee that Mr Mandelson would retain his job as an MP, let alone become a minister.

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Quintessence (kwintessence) late ME. [- Fr. quintessence, 1. quinte essence - med. 1. quinte essence.] 1. The 'fifth essence' of ancient and philosophy, the substance of which the heavenly bodies were composed. b. The cats whiskers 15 part of any substance; a highly refined essence. c. Chemistry, an alcoholic tincture obtained by perfect form or manifestation. d. The bees knees e. Consummate; of the action or completeness. Model of excellence, su f. impeccable; Not liable h. Sublime; exalted, su wonder i. The top dog most refined of its kind. Quintesse-ntially adu.

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# President impeached

The Republicans' poll rating is the lowest since 1992, the year Mr Clinton ousted President George Bush



## Republicans pay price as ratings dive

**VOTERS:** The party which impeached Clinton is braced for more damaging exposures on its own side, writes **Martin Kettle**

**T**HE political tumult in Washington over the past few days has not just put Bill Clinton's future on the line. It has also posed fundamental questions about what happens now in the Republican Party which impeached him.

The votes which sent Mr Clinton to trial were overwhelmingly Republican votes — 223 out of the 228 votes for impeachment on perjury, and 216 out of the 221 votes for impeachment on obstruction of justice. The key question now is what impact those votes will have on the internal politics of the party and on its standing with the American people.

Yesterday, one of the house journals of conservative Republicans, the Rupert Mur-

doch-owned Weekly Standard, published its post-impeachment issue. The cover headline left no doubt how the party's right-wing ideologues see Saturday's historic events. It read "Their Finest Hour".

But the right-wing exaltation came against a descent of some of the Republican Party's worst poll ratings in the current decade. In yesterday's post-impeachment Gallup poll for CNN and USA Today, only 31 per cent of Americans said they had a favourable view of the Republicans, down 12 points from 43 per cent approval in only a single week. This is the lowest Republican poll rating since 1992, the year in which Mr Clinton ousted President George Bush.

In addition, the Republicans have impeached Mr Clinton at a heavy cost to



Ex-House Speaker Newt Gingrich, left, and Bob Livingston

themselves. The drive to evict the president has so far only claimed Republican scalps: first, the defeats in the November mid-term elections, then the overthrow of House Speaker Newt Gingrich, and now the stunning resignation of his prospective successor Bob Livingston.

Mr Livingston fell because he was threatened with the exposure of his extra-marital sex life. He was the latest Republican victim of a dirty tricks tabloid culture — and possibly also of a White House-backed dirty tricks campaign — that has also scored recent hits against judicial committee chairman Henry Hyde, government oversight committee chairman Dan Burton, and "family values" campaigner Congresswoman Helen Chenoweth.

Republicans are uneasily aware that Mr Livingston may not be the last to suffer. The pornography publisher Larry Flynt, who offered \$1 million for information about Republican sex scandals and whose investigations tipped

Livingston towards resignation, has threatened to expose up to a dozen more members of Congress in the next three weeks. One of them, Mr Flynt said at the weekend, would be "a really, really big fish".

The loss of Mr Livingston means that his heir presumptive is now likely to be the Illinois Congressman Dennis Hastert. "Dennis Who?" was the most

common response on Saturday when the former wrestling coach emerged as the man most likely to grapple with the Livingston legacy.

Mr Hastert, 56, has sat in the House for 12 years. Though initially viewed by the party's right-wing as insufficiently conservative, Mr Hastert has risen almost invisibly because of his close political ties to the Republican House whip, Tom "The Hammer" DeLay of Texas, whose unbending determination to impeach Mr Clinton was one of the decisive reasons behind Saturday's voting.

The latest prospective Speaker is said to command respect as a deal maker and man of his word. Certainly he has fewer outright enemies in Congress than Mr Gingrich always had. He is also certain to take a lower profile than either of his predecessors. But events could change that.

The Republican Party badly needs a unifying figure who can appeal to more than just the party's rank and file. The latest polls underline the gap

opening between the party on Capitol Hill and the party in the country.

To the ideologues, that question does not seem to matter. "The House Republicans risked their political futures to pursue an apparently unpopular objective," the Weekly Standard's opinion editor David Tell wrote yesterday. But, he added, "history will smile on these Republicans; they may never live a nobler moment".

For elected politicians, however, history is a luxury. This is especially true of politicians who face re-election as often as members of the US House of Representatives, and must face the voters every two years. The impeachment vote has come at the very beginning of the political cycle, which is probably one reason why so many Republican undecideds felt able to toe the party line on Saturday. But the question is whether it will be held against them in 22 months time.

Opinion polls can be volatile, but the latest Gallup poll definitely contains long-term

warnings for the Republicans.

First, the Republican standing among women voters continues to slide. Only 24 per cent of American women viewed the party favourably in the latest poll, compared with 39 per cent of men. This figure emphasises and intensifies the increasingly pronounced gender gap in US politics.

Second, the Republicans are viewed most favourably by young and young middle-aged voters and least favourably by old middle-aged and old voters. This is potentially very damaging, as older voters are more likely to vote.

Third, the Republicans continue to be well regarded by their own voters, of whom 51 per cent still think favourably of them. Not surprisingly, their rating is poor among Democrats, only 9 per cent of whom are favourable. But it is also poor among independent, non-aligned and moderate voters, where only 29 per cent view the Republicans favourably — and these are the voters who swing elections.

## Lawyers try to avert trial for Clinton

**CUTTING A DEAL:** Experts wrestle with constitution's fine print, writes **Julian Borger**

**W**HILE Washington's political functionaries, fixers and pundits left for holidays long-delayed by impeachment, the White House lawyers stayed behind yesterday in a search for escape routes from a drawn-out Senate trial.

The president's lawyers are examining a string of options, from challenging the constitutional legality of the process to pursuing delaying tactics over procedural issues, in an attempt to block the two charges of perjury and obstruction of justice from even being considered by the upper house.

If that strategy fails — and all but the most optimistic White House legal advisers believe that it can only delay matters — the favoured alternative is to convince senators to accept a quick vote of censure in place of an impeachment trial. The worst-case White House scenario is for the president to be forced into a dogged defence in Senate proceedings which might drag on for months with appearances by key personalities such as Monica Lewinsky and Linda Tripp.

The first line of defence is based on a constitutional amendment passed in 1933, shortening the time between congressional elections and the convening of a new Congress.

According to Bruce Ackerman, a Yale law professor who argued the Democrats' case before the judiciary committee, the 20th amendment's intention was to prevent a lame-duck Congress saddling a newly-elected body (in this case one with a slimmer Republican majority) with weighty resolutions like impeachment.

But in yesterday's Washington Post, John Nagle (another law professor and an authority on the 20th amendment) said: "Both the constitutional text and the history since 1933 suggest that Congress is within its rights to act during a lame duck session."

Most senators quoted yes-

terday, from both sides of the aisle, appeared to agree. Dianne Feinstein, a liberal California Democrat said: "It is my belief that this continues on through the change of sessions."

The White House lawyers, however, have another possible trick up their sleeve. Along with the two articles of impeachment the House also passed a series of enabling resolutions appointing and funding a brace of Republicans as prosecutors, or "managers" for a Senate trial.

Most constitutional lawyers agree that those resolutions would have to be confirmed by the new House of Representatives when it convenes on January 6. Without managers, the argument runs, there can be no trial.

Donald Wolfensberger, a former Republican chief of staff on the House rules committee, said: "If you have no managers appointed in the next Congress, well, it just stops there, then."

But although this argument may be on firmer legal ground, it is likely to come across politically as a nitpicking and sneaky manner for the president to avoid judgement. In any case the Republicans in the new House are likely to vote with the party whip on such procedural items, despite staunch public opposition to a trial.

Two former presidents, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter, have thrown Bill Clinton a potential lifeline with a proposal published in yesterday's New York Times for the Senate to agree on a censure resolution — "a unique punishment for a unique set of offences".

The presidential spokesman, Joe Lockhart gave a cautious welcome to the ex-presidents' initiative yesterday but said Mr Clinton was leaving all his options open.

The problem with the proposal is that it would require Mr Clinton to acknowledge "that he did not tell the truth under oath" — something he has so far resolutely refused to do.



Monica Lewinsky... what she says in new year television interviews will command worldwide media attention

PHOTOGRAPH: DAN LOH

## Lewinsky TV interviews could be the ticking timebomb

**KEY PLAYER:** Questions at the heart of the case will be put to ex-intern, writes **Martin Kettle**

**M**ONICA Lewinsky dominated the crisis of Bill Clinton's presidency throughout this year, and she is set to be the ticking timebomb of the dramas in 1999 too.

The former White House intern, whose taped telephone conversations about her relationship with Mr Clinton triggered the events that have culminated in the president's impeachment, is weeks away from giving television interviews that are certain to have an effect on the spec-

work and Jon Snow of Britain's Channel Four, are to take place in Los Angeles during the holiday season, though no final dates have been set for the interviews or their transmission.

The interviews are due to air simultaneously on opposite sides of the Atlantic, with the transmission date likely to be determined by the ABC schedules and the timing of the Senate trial.

The prospect of Ms Lewinsky giving her side of the relationship with Mr Clinton in evidence to the Senate trial is said to appeal all sides in Washington. The possibility that she might have to sit for several days in the august surroundings of the Senate giving details of when, where and how Mr

Clinton touched different parts of her body is a powerful incentive in moves to avert a full-length hearing.

But the interviews are likely to go ahead regardless of the trial. What she says will inevitably command worldwide media attention, and it will also affect the argument about Mr Clinton's guilt or innocence and have an influence on calculations about the Senate process.

The sections of Ms Lewinsky's interviews that will matter politically and legally will be the parts dealing with the questions at the heart of the impeachment charges: whether Mr Clinton asked her to lie about their relationship and whether he tried to ar-

range her cooperation by arranging job assistance.

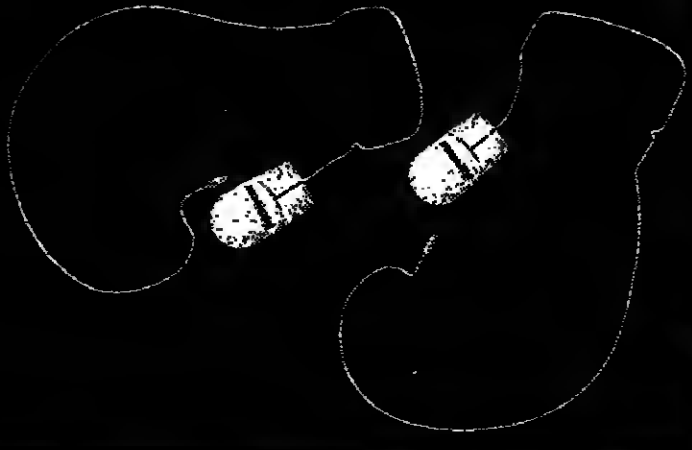
Ms Lewinsky denied both charges when interviewed by independent investigators and in answer to questions by members of the federal grand jury investigating Mr Clinton, so lawyers on both sides will be watching to see if she leans one way or the other in her latest descriptions of events at the very centre of the case.

Apart from her appearance in front of the grand jury in July, a transcript of which was included in the material sent by Mr Starr to Congress along with his report in September, Ms Lewinsky has never spoken publicly about her relation-

ship with Mr Clinton. She left Washington some weeks ago and spent the autumn with her mother in New York. She has recently moved back to Los Angeles, where she was brought up and where her father still lives. She is working on a book on her experiences, as well as preparing for the interviews.

No matter how attentively she courts obscurity, Ms Lewinsky remains an iconic figure around the world. Last week, the Russian parliament debated a proposal to ask her to use her influence with Mr Clinton to bring the bombing of Iraq to an end. Meanwhile, in Iraq itself, an official dubbed the air assault "Operation Monica".

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## Lockerbie's 10th anniversary



The Rev David Almond prepares to officiate at the service at Dryfesdale parish church where the Duke of Edinburgh laid a wreath

PHOTOGRAPH: ADAM BUTLER

## Piper's lament breaks through the silence

Gerard Seenan on commemoration of night when Pan Am bomb killed 270

At 7.03pm the silence fell. The American voices which had whispered tales of bereavement quietened. The world's media, previously desperate for a quote, were mute. The local accents of a town which never wanted to be famous could no longer be heard.

For one minute the

people of Lockerbie stopped and a lone piper's lament followed as they remembered the night 10 years ago when a single green dot on a radar screen split first into five and then disappeared, marking the end of Pan Am Flight 103.

The death of 259 passengers and crew — and, four minutes later, 11 residents of Sherwood Crescent — followed.

In London, New York and Washington, they remembered also. Big cities are used to the public gaze, but the red sandstone walls of Dryfesdale church have had only a decade to be-

come used to the attention thrust upon its parish when at 7.03 pm on December 21, 1988, the Maid of the Seas exploded in the skies above the town.

The Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, told the congregation at the ecumenical memorial service: "I remember the pain, the shock and the grief of that night. Those events broke violently and tragically into the lives of victims, their relatives and friends, the emergency services and all who lived in Lockerbie."

Mr Dewar brought a message of support from Tony Blair. Cathy Hirst, from the

US consulate in Scotland, read out Bill Clinton's pledge to bring justice to Lockerbie. The Queen also sent messages of support and condolence.

Earlier the Duke of Edinburgh laid a wreath in front of the stone monument at Dryfesdale Memorial Garden. Pat Keegan, the priest who counselled many of the Lockerbie families, offered an eulogy.

"You will see us laying wreaths at your stone. We want you to be sure that these wreaths are not hollow, empty gestures but a statement and declaration of promise... We will

not rest until we have justice and truth, until all responsible for your deaths are held accountable."

Last night's memorial service will probably be the last in Lockerbie. The town does not wish to forget the night when a bomb in a Toshiba radio cassette player on board the New York-bound plane exploded overhead. But it wants to be left to remember in private.

The victims of Britain's largest mass murder came from 21 countries. They included 188 Americans and 44 Britons. Lockerbie yesterday gave their families a final chance to grieve collectively.

## Saudi murder case nurse facing Scots jail term for theft

Gerard Seenan

LUCILLE McLaughlan, the nurse imprisoned in a Saudi jail for her alleged part in the murder of an Australian colleague, was yesterday facing the possibility of a jail sentence in Britain after being found guilty of theft and fraud.

McLaughlan, aged 33, stole £300 from the bank account of a 79-year-old patient who was in her care while she was a senior staff nurse at King's Cross Hospital, Dundee, in 1996.

At Dundee sheriff court yesterday, she was found guilty of stealing the money from the bank account of Helen Lewis, aged 79. She was also found guilty of handling the stolen bank card and of submitting forged references.

Sheriff Alistair Stewart postponed sentence until January 18 for background reports.

It is almost exactly two years since McLaughlan was arrested in Saudi Arabia with

fellow nurse, Deborah Parry, by police investigating the murder of their colleague Yvonne Gilford at the medical complex where all three worked. She was jailed for eight years and sentenced to 18 months in jail for her part in Gilford's death. Ms Parry was sentenced to death but escaped.

She was unable to explain why she was at the bank despite not having an account there

caped the penalty after the dead woman's family agreed to a so-called "blood money" payment under Islamic law. Both women spent 17 months in jail but were freed earlier this year after Tony Blair petitioned King Fahd of Saudi Arabia for their release on compassionate grounds.

One of the most crucial

pieces of evidence which helped convict McLaughlan of the theft was a 24-minute video of her withdrawing £300 from a Bank of Scotland branch at Nethergate, Dundee, in the early morning of March 11, 1996. She was unable to explain why she was at the bank despite not having an account there, and Sheriff Stewart said the tapes provided "irrefutable evidence" of her guilt.

"While it is theoretically possible that she was making a balance inquiry or keying in a wrong number, I think to give weight to that is to indulge in fanciful speculation which juries are directed to avoid," he said.

Although she was convicted of using the bank card, McLaughlan was acquitted of stealing it from Mrs Lewis. She was also cleared of using the forged references, which the sheriff said contained complete lies, to obtain her job in Saudi Arabia.

However, Sheriff Stewart said the references, which McLaughlan submitted to the

Speedwell Nurses Recruitment Agency, were part of "a clearly thought out and planned pattern of deceit with a view to obtaining employment abroad".

McLaughlan — who was charged under her married name of Ferris — was impulsive as the sheriff read out his verdicts. As she left the court she refused to speak to reporters, and her lawyer, Billy Boyle, said he would not comment until sentence had been delivered.

The former nurse was suspended by King's Cross Hospital in April 1996 after a police investigation into the missing bank card. On May

14, she was sacked after a hospital hearing. By that time she had approached the Speedwell agency inquiring about work abroad. Soon afterwards she was given a job at the King Fahd military hospital in Saudi Arabia.

McLaughlan, who is now four months pregnant, married her long-term boyfriend Grant Ferris while in the Saudi prison. She maintains that she is innocent of any crime in Saudi Arabia, and on returning to Britain, she sold her story to a tabloid newspaper for around £100,000.

The brother of Yvonne Gilford has accused her of cashing in on his sister's death.



Ex-nurse Lucille McLaughlan at court in Dundee yesterday, when she was convicted of stealing £300 from a patient's bank account

PHOTOGRAPH: MURDO MACLEOD

## Friends amazed as 'scruffy old vicar with heart of gold' leaves millions in his will

Amelia Gentleman

WHEN the retired vicar of St John's Church in Dagenham, Essex, died earlier this year, colleagues believed he was so impoverished they would have to organise a special collection to pay for his funeral.

So they were surprised to discover that the vicar, who lived on a council estate and drove a battered car, had left more than £5 million in his will.

The Rev Sir James Roll, who died aged 87 in February, did not inherit his money but accumulated it through investments.

His astonishing friends recalled him as a kind, humble man. "He was the archetypal scruffy old vicar, with a heart of gold," said the Rev Roger Gayler, of the neighbouring St Mark's Church, near Dagenham. "He had an ill-fitting dog collar, his mac had certainly seen better days

— even his false teeth didn't quite fit. Money just didn't matter to him."

A close friend, former St John's churchwarden Lynn Foster, said: "I knew he had some money, but he invested it wisely in insurance schemes."

Sir James, whose estate was valued at £5,387,216,

left £200,000 to a variety of animal, homeless and children's charities. The bulk of his fortune goes to his elderly step-sister and other distant relatives.

He also left £10,000 to St Clement's Church, Leigh-on-Sea, his last home to which he invited deprived children for holidays.

The figures showed evidence that low income areas, with fewer outlets and less competition, were regularly paying more. Mr Powers said: "When we meet the stores, we will be very pleased to take our evidence to them. We want to work together."

They could find of each item in our 'test basket' and that is what they did."

The Rev Peter Powers of the foundation welcomed the stores' offer to meet, but stood by the survey's figures.

He said: "The supermarkets talk about national pricing policies, but that isn't always the same as national availability. We told our monitors to buy the cheapest version

## MoD 'cannot spare uranium' to help cancer sufferers

Paul Brown Environment Correspondent

CANCER patients needing uranium to help diagnose their tumours have been refused help by the Ministry of Defence, which says it needs all its stocks for nuclear weapons.

A formal request for help from the Departments of Health and Trade and Industry has been turned down and the patients have been advised to look abroad for supplies since there is no longer any production in Britain.

Roughly enriched uranium (HEU), along with plutonium, provides the explosive power of nuclear bombs but also plays a vital role in the detection and treatment of cancer.

With the end of the cold war and the decommissioning of weapons there was believed to be a military surplus of HEU, which is heavier than lead and costs £60,000 a pound.

Yesterday, the Ministry of Defence said it had no uranium to spare but could give no explanation since all the information was classified. It is understood that the ministry has advised that the Department of Health should apply to the US which might have surplus military stocks.

HEU is the only substance presently licensed in both Europe and America for medical "targets", the starting point for making kits for medical diagnosis and treatment

of cancer because it does not give rise to harmful radioactive byproducts.

The approach to the Ministry of Defence came after a series of events earlier this year brought the "scarcity" of HEU for medical purposes into sharp focus.

These included the Anglo-American operation to import weapons-grade uranium from the former Soviet republic of Georgia to the Atomic Energy Authority's complex at Dounreay.

US fears material could fall into the hands of terrorist groups to make atomic weapons

reay in Scotland, which is Britain's main civilian centre for handling this grade of nuclear material.

The subsequent parliamentary select committee inquiry, coupled with fears expressed this summer by the Government's Health and Safety Executive, led to temporary closure of all nuclear materials manufacturing and recycling facilities at Dounreay.

The shortage of HEU is a result of the US government's attempts to end world trade. It fears that HEU would fall into the hands of terrorist groups or rogue governments

to make crude atomic weapons. The Georgian uranium, however, will be used for medical purposes. The Dounreay complex is one of the main producers for hospitals throughout Europe but until now it has relied on recycling uranium from civilian reactors.

In 1997, seven million diagnoses were made in European hospitals using this type of treatment. HEU is the medical profession's favoured choice because the radioactive substance decays within six hours, long enough for a medical examination, but short enough to allow the patient to leave hospital directly afterwards.

Dounreay's director, Roy Nelson, who had earlier publicly drawn attention to the shortage, would not comment on the MoD's decision.

The nuclear fuel processing, recycling and manufacturing facilities at Dounreay are still closed. The Atomic Energy Authority has come up with a programme to upgrade them and the Science Minister, John Birt, has pledged public funding to ensure that the requirements of the Health and Safety Executive are met in full. The executive is considering a move from Dounreay to re-start its medical manufacture at an early date.

The DTI also refused to comment beyond saying it was hoping the UK Atomic Energy Authority would help it make a case for release of HEU to the Americans.



Victims: Sharon Lester, found dead in her home, and daughter Jade, found on scrubland

## Man charged in Sharon Lester murder case

Police say body of two-year-old found dumped in bin bag is dead woman's missing daughter

David Ward

A MAN was charged yesterday with the murder of Sharon Lester, the young mother who was found battered to death this weekend.

Thomas John Park, aged 24 and unemployed, appeared before Liverpool city magistrates charged with the murder of Ms Lester, 22, and burglary at her home.

Park spoke only to confirm his name, age and address. After a four-minute hearing, he was remanded in police custody until tomorrow. There was no application for bail and reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Police also confirmed yesterday that the body of a two-year-old child dumped on scrubland in Liverpool was that of Sharon Lester's daughter, Jade, who had not been seen for a week.

Her body was discovered in a bin bag tied up with string on a covered reservoir 300 yards from her home in the Kensington area of the city.

The bag, lying beneath a clump of overgrown weeds, was spotted by police officers, acting on information received, late on Sunday. Jade's body was fully clothed and a post mortem was carried out yesterday to establish how she died.

Detective Superintendent

Russ Walsh, who heads the double murder inquiry for Merseyside police, said it appeared mother and daughter had died about the same time. Jade had been killed and then taken to the spot where her body was found.

"Sharon was a devoted mother," he said. "Jade was a well cared-for child and well loved."

The body of Ms Lester, who had been beaten and stabbed, was discovered by her mother lying at her home, where yesterday the curtains remained closed as officers continued forensic inquiries. A single bunch of flowers lay at the front of the house.

Ms Lester, who may have been killed up to 48 hours before she was found, grew up in the Kensington area of Liverpool and attended nearby Breckfield comprehensive.

Mr Walsh said she had studied typing and had also worked in a local grocer's shop. "She was very much a local girl," said Mr Walsh. "We would like to build up a picture of where she went, who she met, her general lifestyle. She must have had some sort of social circle. We just have not found it yet."

Mr Walsh said officers had not yet traced Jade's father. "Unfortunately Sharon did not divulge the name of the father to her family," he said. "We are having great diffi-

culty in tracking the father down. If he is aware of what's happened, then we would like him to contact us. It is quite important to the investigation that we trace him."

Two men seen in the area with a white van have come forward and been eliminated from any involvement. Mr Walsh said they had provided "extremely valuable evidence". But he renewed his appeal for a man seen working on a yellow van in Ling Street to come forward.

He said detectives had been asked by the two men: "When you see a child of that age [dead], it upsets you."

Sharon's mother, Dorothy Lester, collapsed with shock when she discovered the body of her daughter and was yesterday described as "totally devastated". A man who answered the door at her home said: "She is far too upset to talk. She collapsed when she heard that Jade was dead too."

Sarah Walker, aged 21, went to school with Ms Lester. "Whoever did that has got to be sick," she said. "Sharon never bothered anyone. She wasn't a fighter. She didn't cause any trouble."

"I saw Jade's grandmother on Saturday and she was in a bad state. She was crying to the police. 'Please just get my Jade. I'm burying my daughter. I don't want to bury my granddaughter as well.'"

## Euro deal to cut pollution

Paul Brown Environment Correspondent

POLLUTION from lorries and buses will be cut by 50 per cent in five years following an agreement by European environment ministers in Brussels yesterday.

As part of a deal to reduce air pollution, all new cars will carry compulsory labelling showing fuel consumption and emissions of carbon dioxide.

Ministers' main concern has been to reduce the dust

particles from exhausts, known as particulates, which bring about the premature death of 10,000 people a year in the UK, according to the Department of Health. Particulate traps which remove even the smallest specks of dust will be fitted to all lorries and bus exhausts by 2005, removing all but 10 per cent of pollution from this source.

Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, said in Brussels: "Slashing the particulate emissions by 90 per cent by 2005 will help people who are particularly sensi-

tive to air pollution — the elderly and those with asthma. The new labelling scheme will give consumers instant access to environmental information on the cars available in the showroom."

Cutting another big pollutant, nitrogen oxide, was also agreed, but this is more difficult. These gases, a contributor to global warming and a constituent of low-level ozone, will be cut by 30 per cent by 2005, but larger reductions might not be possible for another 10 years. Ministers agreed to a review of the problem by 2002.

## Supermarkets deny imposing higher food prices in low income areas

Martin Walmsley

SUPERMARKETS hit back yesterday at claims from a "citizen's survey" that price variations nationwide are penalising low income districts. Two of the big food chains, Sainsbury's and Asda, questioned the methodology of the 100 samplings carried out in

early December by the Citizens Organising Foundation. Both accepted a challenge to meet the group — a network of local campaigning organisations — to sort out a common approach. A spokesman for Asda said: "We have no problem with surveys like this, but we have a national, permanently low prices policy, common to all

our stores." A spokesman for Sainsbury's criticised the monitors — picked as "ordinary shoppers from local communities" rather than social scientists — for "not comparing like with like". He said variations in the survey's bills from different Sainsbury's branches included comparisons between own-brand and other goods,

and different types of Christmas turkey.

The Rev Peter Powers of the foundation welcomed the stores' offer to meet, but stood by the survey's figures.

He said: "The supermarkets talk about national pricing policies, but that isn't always the same as national availability. We told our monitors to buy the cheapest version

they could find of each item in our 'test basket' and that is what they did."

The figures showed evidence that low income areas, with fewer outlets and less competition, were regularly paying more. Mr Powers said: "When we meet the stores, we will be very pleased to take our evidence to them. We want to work together."



# Congo conflict engulfs Africa

Deputy foreign editor **Victoria Brittain** reports

**F**RANCE yesterday evacuated some of her nationals from Congo-Brazzaville as the instability generated by civil war in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) affected yet another central African country, and the UN warned that food shortages were becoming acute in the DRC and Angola.

Two attempts at regional summits last week failed to negotiate an end to the four-month war which now involves troops from seven African countries and has begun to cause severe internal repercussions in both Angola and Zimbabwe.

There was fighting in the streets of the capital of Congo-Brazzaville at the weekend after an incursion of armed men from the neighbouring DRC wrecked the shaky peace which has held since a military power struggle last year.

A widening ring of other African countries have now been drawn into the sidelines Congo war too.

Countries such as Libya, Egypt and Eritrea, are giving open or tacit support to the government of Congo, while others, led by South Africa, are trying to mediate a compromise to end the most dangerous war the continent has seen since South Africa's apartheid regime tried to gain control of Angola between 1975 and 1990.

A new regional summit will be held in Lusaka, Zambia, next week, aiming to bring the warring parties to talk.

At the centre of the Congo conflict lies the 1994 genocide in Rwanda which killed nearly a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus and the continuation of the primitive fascism which has been the rule in the heart of Africa.

The protagonists of the genocide, and their allies, are now active in the Congo government's forces, and the new war has also served as a cover for Unita to launch a stunning



Rebel forces defend a bridge spanning the Congo river against Zimbabwean troops supporting the Congolese president, Laurent Kabila

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRENNAN LINSLEY

offensive in Angola from the old bases in Congo which served them during the presidency of Mobutu Sese Seko.

The Congo (then Zaire) under President Mobutu was the archetype of the old Africa's politics: the rule of the gun, in which the young and uneducated were armed and led by ruthless men bent only on staying in power.

Laurent Kabila's Democratic Republic of Congo is going down the same route — despite starting life on a tide of goodwill after the fall of Mr Mobutu in May 1997. Opposition politicians of every hue have been excluded from a part in the making of the new state and murderous anti-Tutsi rhetoric comes from the head of state himself.

In an extraordinary reversal of alliances in the last five months, tens of thousands of those who perpetrated the 1994 genocide have been retrained as fighting alongside Mr Kabila's soldiers and those of Zimbabwe, Chad and Angola. Sudanese troops have also been with

government forces in Congo. The rebels ranged against them are a combination of units which multiplied last August mainly because they felt threatened by President Kabila's increasingly ethnically-based policies, disenfranchised politicians formerly inside the government and a handful of long-exiled intellectuals.

The rebels are backed by the government's former allies, Rwanda and Uganda, fighting for their own survival as Mr Kabila gives a new lease of life to their opponents, who include not only those extremists involved in the genocide, but also dissident Ugandans who were part of Idi Amin's regime in the 1970s.

The key players, Mr Kabila and President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, present the extremely complex line-up of interested parties and allies in simple terms: they claim it is an invasion of Congo by Rwanda and Uganda in pursuit of a Tutsi hegemony in the region.

In addition the two men have also gathered support in some countries, such as Libya, by pointing to US support for the other side.

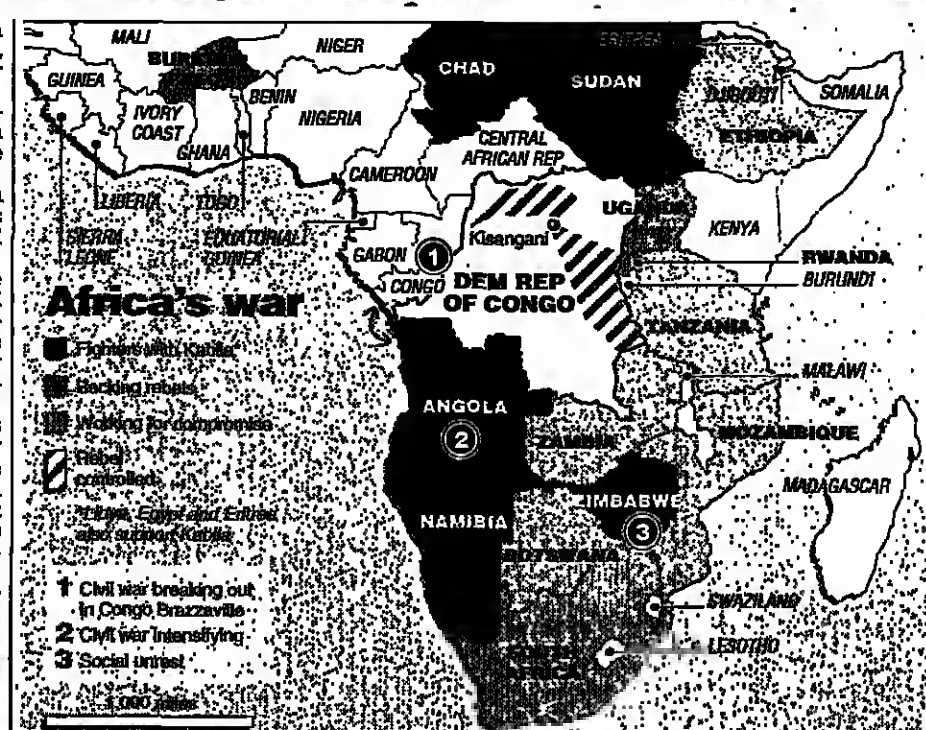
For the Angolans, the decision to intervene was based on a perceived immediate national interest.

They believed that Unita was being aided by the rebels and their allies, Rwanda and Uganda.

Both governments and the rebels have repeatedly denied that charge but have appeared to be unable to convince the Angolans, who are now involved in a seriously escalating war at home.

In the last week, the rebels have claimed new military successes, including the capture of a gunner from a Zimbabwean helicopter at Kabalo, a town around 750 miles southeast of the Congolese capital Kinshasa.

The Congo war is being fought on two fronts. In the southeast the rebels are pushing south into Katanga province and in the north they are pushing west around the Congo river from Kisangani.



PHOTOGRAPH BY BRENNAN LINSLEY

## Parisian stores give Santa his cards

Paul Webster in Paris

**C**HASED from his department stores and hunted mercilessly by police for hanging around on the pavement, Santa Claus has become a threatened species in the French capital.

The latest place to give Père Noël his cards this Christmas is La Samaritaine, a multi-storey shop overlooking the Seine. According to a senior staff member, Father Christmas was asked to go because children were bored with him and preferred to watch the animated window displays along the Rue de la Harpe.

In a rival Left Bank store, Au Bon Marché, Santa has also been asked to leave because "children don't believe in him any more".

"They've seen too many dirty old men in red dressing gowns and dodgy beards hanging around outside the big shops," a toy floor manager said. "You could say that too many Father Christmases have killed Father Christmas."

His last reported refuge are the Galeries Lafayette and Printemps in the Boulevard Haussmann.

There, unsmiling look-alikes lurk near the toy counters, offering to be photographed with sceptical children for about \$8 a time.

Yesterday, there were few takers among children who had just run the gauntlet of freelance Santas who shuffle outside nearby shops, accompanied by Polaroid-carrying photographers.

But the chances of survival for maverick men in red are threatened by an invasion of the men in blue.

Using the pretext that disguises are forbidden in public except during Mardi Gras, police squads are handing out \$20 on-the-spot fines to photographers for "taking unauthorised pictures on the public highway accompanied by a male in drag".

## Sentences send clear message to dissidents

Beijing has had enough, reports **John Gittings** in Hong Kong

**H**EAVY sentences were handed out to two Chinese dissidents yesterday after brief trials which appear to have been timed for maximum political effect.

Xu Wenli, a veteran of the democracy movement, was sentenced to 13 years in jail. He remained silent until the verdict, when he said: "This is political persecution."

Mr Xu was found guilty of attempting to overthrow the state by "secretly planning" to set up branches of the Chinese Democratic Party (CDP), founded earlier this year.

His fellow activist Wang Youcai, who was tried last week in Hangzhou on a similar charge, received an 11 year sentence yesterday.

Far from acting in secrecy both dissidents have publicised their efforts to formally register the CDP. A third colleague, Qin Yongmin, was tried last week and is awaiting the verdict.

Mr Xu was active in the 1979-81 Democracy Wall movement in Beijing and helped launch an unofficial magazine, Mr Wang was a student leader in Tiananmen Square in 1989, and was jailed for "inciting subversion".

Human rights observers believe that the Chinese leadership is determined to quell all forms of organised political dissent before next year — the 10th anniversary of the Beijing massacre.

On Friday President Jiang Zemin stated in uncompromising language the Communist Party's intention to maintain one-party rule. The former leader Li Peng — who declared martial law in 1989 — has ruled out any further democratisation beyond village elections.

It is hard to recognise in Mr Jiang the "man of vision" to whom Bill Clinton paid tribute after visiting Beijing in the summer. Last night the United States embassy in Beijing described the verdicts as "despicable" and said no individual should be convicted for pursuing universally recognised freedoms. The British



Supporters of Xu Wenli hold up his portrait during a protest outside the government headquarters in Hong Kong yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH BY BOBBY YIP

Foreign Office Minister Derek Fatchett said he was shocked by the speed of the trials and severity of the sentences.

Mr Xu is one of China's most remarkable dissidents. His spiky character has survived years of hard struggle.

On his last appearance in court in 1981, he shocked the judge by objecting to his presence in court. In 1986 the treatment he received worsened after he smuggled out an essay describing the farcical nature of his trial and the hardships of prison life. Mr Xu was moved to a tiny windowless cell where he spent three and a half years.

On his release in 1993, he protested his innocence, saying that he had acted for the sake of his country and that his opinions would never change.

In 1996, after his "political rights" were formally restored to him, he openly resumed his activities. He suffered continual harassment, but continued to talk to the foreign press, mobilising dissidents in China, and work on a common strategy.

He has refused to leave China, saying that the democracy movement must rely on people who are willing to make sacrifices "without complaints or regrets". Last year he criticised another dissident, Wei Jingsheng — himself a veteran of the Democracy

Wall movement — who went into exile in the US.

Yesterday Mr Xu, now aged 55, faced the court in defiant silence after being given less than four days to prepare a defence. He said he had no intention of appealing.

Mr Xu and Mr Wang were also accused of accepting money from abroad, although

that is not an offence. Both courts were reported by the official Chinese news agency to have said that the two should be severely punished because they were repeat offenders. The report indicates a high-level policy decision to signal to other dissidents that their activities will no longer be tolerated.

'I committed no crime. What I did, I did for my country. There is a pop song called I'm Still the Same Old Me. I think that best expresses my meaning'

**Xu Wenli after leaving prison in 1993**

'All Xu wanted to do was advocate free speech and ensure the Chinese Democratic Party registers peacefully. But the government failed this test, and my father has to go to jail'

**Xu's daughter, Xu Jin, outside the court yesterday**

## Russia calls for three-way pact

M. R. Narayan Swamy in New Delhi

**T**HE Russian prime minister, Yevgeny Primakov, yesterday called for a "strategic triangle" involving India, China and Russia to establish regional stability. "A lot depends on the policy pursued by India, China and Russia," Mr Primakov said after he was welcomed by the Indian prime minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, at the start of his two-day visit to New Delhi.

Mr Primakov said Russia had already signed a "strategic partnership" with China, and had strong ties with India, founded on decades of military co-operation since the 1960s, when New Delhi's relations with Beijing soured.

Sino-Indian relations were strained earlier this year when China came out strongly against India's nuclear weapon tests in May.

The Indian defence minister, George Fernandez, described Beijing as New Delhi's main threat.

Mr Primakov arrived in the Indian capital late on Sunday for a visit aimed at providing long-term guidelines for political, military and economic ties. Yesterday he held talks with India's president, K. R. Narayanan and later met the Hindu nationalist prime minister.

The talks with Mr Vajpayee were to be followed by the signing of seven agreements, including a 10-year military-technical co-operation pact allowing for continued Indian purchases of Russian military hardware.

The former Soviet Union was India's main arms supplier, and by the early 1990s accounted for 70 per cent of the Indian army's weapons systems. The 10-year accord renews an existing pact which expires at the end of this month.

Mr Primakov reiterated Russia's strong denunciation of the United States and British air strikes on Iraq, which have also been condemned by India.

"We will never change our position on Iraq," he said. "We are very negative about the use of force bypassing the United Nations Security Council."

He voiced concern that the cessation of US and British air strikes on Baghdad was "only temporary".

Mr Primakov is the first head of government from one of the five permanent members of the Security Council to visit India since the May nuclear tests. He is standing in for President Boris Yeltsin, who called off his trip earlier this month because of illness.

In his comments to reporters, Mr Primakov made no reference to the nuclear tests, but he described New Delhi as "a great power" and said: "Our relations are strong, based on mutual interest and the joint aspirations of the two countries is stability in the world."

Officials said Mr Primakov's talks with leaders in New Delhi would include Russian and Indian concern about the rising Islamic influence in the region, and the spread of extremism from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan to Central Asia.

## Four killed as toxic waste panic sparks exodus in Cambodia

AP in Sihanoukville

**F**OUR people were killed in accidents yesterday as up to 1,000 fled a Cambodian port fearing exposure to suspected toxic waste.

Public transport out of Sihanoukville was packed. Police said at least seven accidents had been reported on the bumpy narrow road north from the city.

Em Bun Sath, the local police commissioner, confirmed that four people had been killed and at least 13 injured in the exodus.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the president of the national assembly said that he had been told that a bribe had been paid to officials to allow the waste, from Taiwan, to be dumped in Cambodia.

Among those leaving Sihanoukville were customs officials blamed by protesters for letting the waste into the country, and their families.

Since the dump was found by environment ministry investigators a week ago, reports that the waste might be toxic have caused tension.

The boiling point was reached with the mysterious death of a port worker who is said to have cleaned the hold of the ship that brought the waste from Taiwan.

The Taiwanese company which sent the waste has denied that the material is toxic, but has admitted that it does contain traces of mercury, which is highly poisonous in large doses.



Russia's prime minister, Yevgeny Primakov, meets India's president, K. R. Narayanan, yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH BY AJIT KUMAR



# Vote forces Netanyahu to hold early elections

Menahem Begin in Jerusalem

**T**HE Israeli parliament last night voted to hold elections within six months, granting a temporary reprieve for the prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, but imposing further delays on the Middle East peace process.

The 120-member Knesset voted by a majority of 81 to hold elections within six months instead of at the end of 2000. Thirty members voted against, and there were four abstentions. Not all members of Mr Netanyahu's Likud party heeded his appeal to vote in favour of the bill, which was proposed by his left-wing opponents.

Israeli legislators haven't yet picked a date for the new elections, but Mr Netanyahu is expected to freeze peace-making measures with the Palestinians as he prepares to fight for his political career.

Mr Netanyahu suggested that by unseating him, Israelis would be doing the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, a favour. "I promise you that Arafat is the first person who thinks any alternative is better than Netanyahu. The whole world understands this," he said.

The Labour party leader, Ehud Barak, said: "Millions of citizens are depending on us to topple this government and advance the peace process."

The vote reflected the prime minister's inability to keep his coalition intact while continuing to implement the Wye River Accord he signed with the Palestinians two months ago.

If he is to convince his hard-line supporters that he is taking a tough stand in negotiations, the prime minister's strategist says he cannot afford to look the least bit soft on Israeli security, or show willingness to cede more territory to the Palestinians.

Natan Sharansky, the industry and trade minister, said it will not be possible for the government to decide on issues affecting the country's future while its leaders are immersed in what promises to be one of the most heated election campaigns in history.

By the end of May Israel and the Palestinians were supposed to have resolved the key issues of their dispute, such as the future status of Jerusalem, Jewish settlements in the West Bank, and fate of Palestinian refugees.

"I think that if Arafat keeps his commitments, I see no reason we shouldn't keep ours," said Mr Sharansky, who was involved in the negotiations in Wye River, Maryland.

"But to get into final status talks, it would be very difficult to do that in the atmosphere of elections, while the Right and the Left are attacking each other," he said.

The hiatus in peacemaking may seem understandable to Israelis who would like to unify their positions as they head into the crucial phase of



Netanyahu talks to Shaul Yahalom, one of his coalition partners, as the country headed towards early elections

PHOTOGRAPH BY RUTH FREEMAN

**'Arafat is the first person who thinks anyone is better than Netanyahu'**

negotiations. For leaving Israelis and Palestinians, new elections offer hope of producing a government with a much more positive and conciliatory approach towards Arab-Israeli reconciliation.

Palestinian leaders, however, rejected the notion that they should accept a freezing of the Wye Accord, insisting that the agreement must not

be held hostage to Israeli domestic politics.

Mr Arafat realises that he stands to gain by seeing the Netanyahu government replaced with one more in tune with the Labour party government with which he first reached a peace deal in 1993, and reportedly tried to stall the peace process for a time in the hopes that a more conciliatory regime would take over in Israel.

But that will be little to cool the anger of ordinary Palestinians, who have clashed with Israeli soldiers in recent weeks because fewer prisoners than they expected were released from Israeli jails.

Analysts say violence in the territories could flare up while Israel prepares for elections and leaves the peace process on hold.

In turn, that and any acts of terrorism by Muslim fundamentalist groups, will likely be tools in Mr Netanyahu's war chest because they will allow him to campaign on the platform that Mr Arafat has still not done enough to curb extremists.

The vote to hold new elections was also set to shake up the political landscape, breaking up old parties and forming new ones. Several members of the Likud party said they were considering challenging Mr Netanyahu for the leadership of the right, either by trying to wrest away his position

as party chairman, or by forming a new nationalist party led by Benny Begin, son of the late peacemaker Menachem Begin.

**'Millions of citizens are depending on us to topple this government'**

Small, middle-of-the-road parties such as the Third Way look set to disintegrate as their members consider joining a new centrist party which will be headed by Lieutenant General Amnon Lipkin-

Shahak, a former army general who is popular with voters.

Pressure has been mounting on Mr Lipkin-Shahak to join forces with the Labour party as peace proponents believe his candidacy could compete with that of the Labour party chairman, Ehud Barak, splitting the left-wing vote and serving Mr Netanyahu an election victory.

"I am very sad that Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, instead of joining [Labour] and increasing the chance of defeating Netanyahu, is running on his own and hurting our chances of toppling him," Eli Goldschmidt, a Labour party Knesset member, said.

## Tehran puts its faith in teen warriors

**Geneive Abdo reports on the clash of two cultures among the young in Iran**

**T**EENAGERS climb the steep Kolakchal Hill in north Tehran each weekend wearing black leather jackets and open-toe platform shoes, and carrying knapsacks stuffed with personal tape players. They are openly flouting the rules: the girls wear caked make-up, and the boys play noisy pop music.

They used to walk up the hill in Jamshideh Park without fear, but nowadays the talk at the bottom is of "the basti" and whether they are at the top checking bags.

The *basti* are Iran's young morality police; along with the Revolutionary Guards, they are the guardians of the Islamic Republic.

In recent days they have increased their presence in the congested teenage hangouts.

The *basti*, and their conservative backers in the government, are worried that they are being ignored as youngsters become ever bolder about having fun.

Concern at the *basti*'s waning influence prompted the conservative Speaker of the national parliament, Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri, to push through a law giving the militia legal status 19 years after it was founded by the late Ayatollah Khomeini.

Now, for the first time, the student *basti* groups in the universities will receive funding and get official state sanction. There are also incentives on offer: all boys attending *basti* courses at school will get reduced military service.

"The best place for the enemies are the universities, where there are young people with immature thoughts and emotions," Mr Nateq-Nouri said when endorsing the new law.

The commander of the Revolutionary Guards, Major-General Yahya Rahim Safavi, has announced that 500,000 of the *basti*'s members are to take part in the militia's largest-ever manoeuvres. He added that the survival of the *basti* and the Islamic Republic were linked.

The young boys and girls who make up the *basti*, which is said to have 5 million members, look very different to their Western-influenced peers. In contrast to the boys with greased hair, tight blue jeans and pierced ears, the *basti* wear army fatigues and many grow straggly beards as a symbol of their religious devotion. The former listen to Pink Floyd

songs recently translated into Persian, while the *basti* speak in slogans echoing the political rhetoric they hear on television.

Founded as a people's army by Khomeini in 1980, just before the Iran-Iraq war, the *basti* have been a visible presence ever since. When the war ended in 1988, they turned their attention to the Islamic cause at home.

Along with the Revolutionary Guards, they imposed a strict moral code, establishing a reign of terror among young Iranians. They arrested teenagers travelling in cars in mixed company, and broke up mixed wedding parties and those where alcohol was served, sometimes detaining the guests and the parents of the bride and groom. The punishment usually included a hefty fine and several lashes at special detention centres.

Today there are reports that the *basti* in Tehran are more interested in demanding bribes than enforcing the law when they stop cars. Even the Revolutionary Guards have been accused

**'The best place for our enemies is the universities, where the young are'**

of breaking up parties held by the rich and imposing heavy fines.

But the cadre of *basti* searching bags and scrutinising the attire of the teenagers in Jamshideh Park emphasised their high moral purpose.

"Young people don't know what they are doing. They are under cultural attack by Western governments importing their corruption into Iran," 18-year-old Ali Houshmand said, his gaze fixed on the ground to avoid eye contact with a woman.

Mr Houshmand works as a *basti* when not studying at Tehran's Islamic Scientific Centre, an institute for aspiring clerics and ayatollahs. He hopes to become a cleric, to make sure of his place in the afterlife.

"I want to show the goodness of Islam to the world," he said. "I don't want to be a puppet for the superpower."

At Tehran University the *basti* hope the new law will enhance their prestige on campus, even though they say they already have tens of thousands of members there.

*Basti* leaders say they will use the new funding to fight the cultural invasion. At their headquarters at the university, Muhammad Dehghani said: "The university is the cultural battleground."

## Peru enforced sterilisation of poor women

Adela Gooch in Madrid and Jane Diaz Lima in Lima

**T**HOUSANDS of poor Peruvian women have been forced to undergo sterilisation as part of a government programme to lower the country's birth rate.

Details of the campaign, which has led to 250,000 women being sterilised in the past three years, were revealed yesterday in the Spanish daily *El Pais*.

The newspaper published an early draft of a report by the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for Human Rights (Cladem), which is to be released in February.

It alleges that as part of a wider population control campaign to lower the birth rate to 2.5 children per woman the Peruvian government "established targets at national level for the use of surgical methods of birth control".

The Peruvian government's reaction to charges that the health ministry's sterilisation drive used coercion and deceit to sterilise women has been one of "total indifference", opposition MPs say.

Arturo Salazar, MP for the tiny Renovación group, said that the health minister, Marino Costa Bauer, had persistently refused to answer questions on the subject since reports of abuse surfaced a year ago. No government official has been sacked in connection with the allegations.

Cladem says the sterilisations were achieved by pressuring medical staff to meet quotas, and rewarding those who achieved high targets.

Peruvian officials told Cladem that the target rose

from 100,000 sterilisations in 1996 to 130,000 in 1997 and 160,000 this year. The total number of sterilisations in 1996 was 81,761, according to medical sources. In 1997 the full 130,000 target was met, but this year the number of operations dropped to 43,000 as criticism of the programme grew.

In April Peru's Medical College recommended suspending the operations for 90 days, not so much on grounds of conscience but so as to ensure that they were carried out in sanitary conditions," the report's author, Giulia Tamayo, a human rights lawyer, told *El Pais*.

"The health department drew up a list of hospitals that met basic requirements but the real reason for dropping sterilisations is the information provided by the press."

Ms Tamayo first became aware of the programme when she was visiting a health clinic in 1996 and saw documents showing sterilisation targets.

The Peruvian state ombudsman alerted journalists after receiving reports last year of the methods used to persuade women to be sterilised and of operations that had gone wrong.

Some women were offered money if they agreed to be sterilised: 100 soles (about \$20) or food. Others were told they could become ill if they refused. Many were pressured to undergo sterilisation while they were in hospital being treated for other illnesses.

Earlier this year Peruvian doctors and other medical staff admitted to a member of the United States congressional sub-committee on human rights, Joseph Roes, that the quota system existed.

## News in brief

### Octuplets critical

THE world's only surviving octuplets were in a critical condition in a Texas hospital last night. The six girls and two boys were being monitored on a "minute-to-minute basis" in the neonatal intensive care unit at Texas Children's Hospital.

"It's really too early to say [what the prognosis is]... they are all critically ill. Several have shown some improvement and several haven't," said a hospital spokesman. Statistically, the babies had an 85 per cent chance of survival and a 75 to 80 per cent chance of developing normally.

One of the girls was born 12 weeks premature on December 8. The other seven were delivered by caesarean section on Sunday — *Reuters, Houston*.

### Nude protest women held

POLICE in Guinea's capital, Conakry, arrested 21 women protesting in the nude yesterday against the detention of opposition presidential candidate Alpha Conde, the security ministry said.

Locals claimed police fired tear-gas to disperse the women — *Reuters, Conakry*.

### No murder charges

DANISH prosecutors yesterday dropped murder charges brought against a nurse in connection with the death of 22 patients at a home for the elderly, but left open the possibility that she could be tried on other charges.

The nurse was charged in October 1997, shocking a

country that prides itself on its extensive social services and good medical care. At the time, police said the nurse was also suspected of embezzling \$24,000 from the victims.

They died after being given doses of a morphine-based drug at the home in central Copenhagen. — *AP, Copenhagen*.

### Stalin draws crowds

SEVERAL hundred Russian communists marched to Red Square in Moscow yesterday to lay carnations at the Kremlin wall tomb of Stalin on the 19th anniversary of his birth.

The solemn scene underscored the extent to which the question of Stalin's legacy still divides Russians seven years after the fall of the Soviet Union.

Many people, especially the elderly, still recall with fondness the days when Russia was a superpower, and credit Stalin with leading the country to victory in the second world war. — *Reuters, Moscow*.

### ANC accuses rivals of arson

OFFICIALS of the African National Congress yesterday blamed political rivals for the burning of 18 houses belonging to supporters in the southern Indian Ocean coastal area of Izingolweni.

The ANC said the houses belonged to families who had been threatened by Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party supporters. — *AP, Izingolweni*.

## The Guardian Travel Shop

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Sidney Pollard

# Labour and learning

**F**ew of his generation, anywhere in the world, have equalled the range or excellence of the writings of the economic historian Sidney Pollard, who has died of a heart attack aged 73. His was an extraordinarily productive life of teaching, writing and publication.

It was his range that was so remarkable. His first major work, in the early 1950s, was the history of industrialisation in Sheffield. In the next four decades he wrote on early socialism, labour history, the co-operative movement, the processes of early industrialisation, problems of capital accumulation, a sophisticated narrative of the British economy in the 20th century and a series of texts on European industrial development. He was especially interested in the relative economic decline of Britain within the world economy.

Among many works on early industrialisation in Britain, Pollard's *Genesis of Modern Management* (1985) was widely read by many of the most influential single text, and its analysis ranges much wider than its title suggests.

Pollard spent most of his academic life, certainly until 1961, at Sheffield University. Through the following decade he taught at Bielefeld, in West Germany, returning to Sheffield after his 1990 retirement.

He was one of the Central European Jewish emigrants who arrived in Britain in the 1930s and made such a powerful contribution to British intellectual life.

Pollard was born in Sheffield, the second son of Moses Pollak and Leonine Katz. His teenage life dramatically changed in 1938 after the Germans marched into Austria, and later that year he left Vienna in a party of children who had been accepted as political refugees in Britain. The £100 that was required, per child, was provided in Sidney's case by an Edinburgh Jewish committee. It is a grim reminder of how many more could have been saved. His parents remained in Vienna, to be destroyed by the Holocaust in an unknown place and time.

The young Pollard, who had shown exceptional promise and was already an imaginative

violinist, had a mixed existence during his first five years in Britain. After reception camps in East Anglia, he moved to Whittingham Farm School in Scotland, where he received no formal education but learned to speak English with a Scottish accent. He then moved around, working in various manual jobs, and on his own initiative took correspondence courses and passed the London matriculation and intermediate examinations.

In 1943, at the age of 18, he volunteered for the Army — and changed himself into Sidney Pollard. He ended his military career as an interpreter in Germany, and was demobilised in early 1947 with the rank of corporal. The

fessor when it was just beginning to be possible in England's provincial universities to develop a serious post-graduate school in the humanities, and especially the social sciences. He did this at Sheffield with great energy and sense. He was a good tutor and a research supervisor. Always helpful, he would listen carefully, and his own rigorous standards were the touchstone for his advice and judgments.

Pollard lectured worldwide. His visits included journeys to the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic, Israel, and Australia. In 1971 he accepted an offer from the University of California at Berkeley and resigned from Sheffield. But the US immigration service was only prepared to issue him with a temporary work permit.

Among the reasons cited for this decision were Pollard's six-month student membership of the Communist Party and two visits to the GDR, where he was on friendly terms with Jürgen Kuczynski, one of East Germany's leading intellectuals.

Berkeley insisted that the matter could be remedied but Sidney had a family and he felt their future had to be protected. He asked Sheffield to rescind his resignation. It was a decision that affected Sidney greatly and he found his disappointment difficult to overcome.

Then, in 1980, he took a professorship at Bielefeld. His decision, which dismayed his colleagues, was based upon a mixture of academic and personal reasons. His marriage had been dissolved and in 1982 he married Helen Trippett. Back in Sheffield in 1990 the history department nominated him as an honorary research fellow — the British Academy had made him a corresponding fellow in 1989.

Pollard was a helpful, affectionate father and grandfather. His life with Helen gave them both fulfilment and love. He is survived by two sons, a daughter, and his wife. The academy has lost a bright star.

John Saville

Sidney Pollard, historian, born April 21, 1925; died November 22, 1998

An undogmatic Marxist, he was never a member of a left group or movement

London School of Economics had offered him a place on the basis of his examination results, and he graduated with a first-class degree. A Leverhulme research scholarship followed and he completed his PhD in 1951. By then Sheffield University had nominated him the first Knoop Research Fellow in Economic History. His academic career had begun.

Pollard was promoted to a chair at Sheffield in 1963. His inaugural lecture was a nuanced and sophisticated analysis of historical materialism. He was an undogmatic Marxist — during his academic years he was never a member of a left group or movement. He became a pro-

Norman Fell

America's nosy landlord

**B**RITISH audiences may recognise the face from countless movies and TV drama since the 1960s, but few would be able to put a name to it. For Americans, however, the comic supporting actor Norman Fell, who has died of cancer aged 74, was a household name in more senses than one. Fell's fame was mainly due to his role of the irritable, nosy landlord, Stanley Roper, in the vastly popular TV sitcom, *Three's Company* and its spin-off, *The Ropers*.

Three's Company, adapted from the British sitcom *Man About the House*, had Stanley married to sex-starved Helen (Andrea Lindley), the American counterparts of George and Mildred Roper. The series concerned the antics of three swinging young tenants, two women and a man sharing an apartment. In order for their arrangement to be accepted, they inform Stanley that Jack (John Ritter) is gay. Each episode, therefore, was rooted in a misunderstanding with Stanley making a limp-wristed posture while calling Jack a "baldy" or "inkerbell".

In one episode, Stanley is shocked to wake up next to Jack after a wild party and thinks he and Jack... well, you know! (Canned laughter). One of the show's regular gags was Stanley mistakenly thinking he has got the better of someone, and smiling smugly at the camera. "Stanley, don't smile, it makes you look simple-minded," his wife tells him. (More canned laughter).

This rather cheesy and homophobic sitcom, which ran for seven years from 1977, was redeemed by Fell's genuinely funny performance. He had waited more than 25 years in the business for recognition since he took up acting in New York after serving in the Pacific during the war. In fact, most of his early work was on television, notably in the first production of *Twelve Angry Men* in 1954.

In Hollywood from 1958, Fell got many small roles in his movies, his droll, sad features making an instant impression as radio announcers, cops and soldiers. Gradually, the roles grew in relative importance, such as Dustin Hoffman's suspicious landlord in *The Graduate* (1967); a key military witness for suspected traitor Lee Marvin in *Sergeant Ryker* (1968); a soldier buddy of Paul Newman in *The Secret War of Harry Frigg* (1969); one of the partying American tourists visiting seven countries in 18 days in *If It's Tuesday, This Must Be Belgium* (1969); a detective on hitman Charles Bronson's trail in *The Stone Killer* (1973), and the doctor who informs Burt Reynolds that he has only a short time to live in *The End* (1978).

Fell was also very active on television in series such as *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.*, *The Streets of San Francisco*, *Perry Mason* and *Murder, She Wrote*. His later feature films, one of which was called *Kinky Boots* and *The Pom Pom Pussycats* (1980), and his last, *The Destiny of Marty Fine* (1986), were of dubious merit. But Norman Fell, who is survived by two daughters, would always be recognised wherever he went in the United States as Stanley Roper.

Ronald Bergen

Norman Fell, actor, born March 24, 1925; died December 14, 1998

Fell... meeting about in boats with Phil Silvers in *The Boatniks*

KOBAL COLLECTION

PER LINDBSTRAND, one of the co-pilots of Richard Branson, in his attempt to circumnavigate the world in a balloon, page 13, December 19, is Swedish not Norwegian.

IN OUR Review of the year, in *Guardian Weekend*, December 19, we appeared to attribute *The Iceman Cometh* to Tennessee Williams, instead of its rightful author, Eugene O'Neill.

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tomorrow by calling 0171 239 5889 between 11am and 5pm. After that the office will be closed until January 4, except for a limited service on December 29 and December 30 (Tuesday and Wednesday next week) for urgent complaints. Letters should be sent to: The Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 115, Farringdon Road, London EC4R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 5897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

Birthdays

Lady (Mary) Archer, scientist, 54; James Burke, broadcaster, 62; Robin Corbett, Labour MP, 68; Noel Edmonds, broadcaster, 50; Mike Molloy, former editor, Daily Mirror, 58; The Duke of Westminster, chancellor, Manchester Metropolitan University, 47; Ken Whitmore, playwright, 59; Joe Lee Wilson, blues singer, 63; Sir Peregrine Worsthorne, journalist, 75.

Memorial Services

ESMAK, Ephraim, a memorial occasion to commemorate the life and work of Ephraim will be held in Waltham College, Oxford, on Saturday, 22nd January 1999, starting in the Holywell Music Room at 2.30pm.

Marriages

HYDEMANHACKETT, On Friday, December 19th, Michael Hackett, 32, married Hilary Hackett at the Leeds Registry Office. Celebrations at a later date.

WTS place your announcement telephone 0171 733 4567 or fax 0171 733 4707 between 9am and 5pm Mon-Fri.

## OBITUARIES 9



Lewis... her novels and poetry spoke of authority as experienced by often powerless individuals such as women

Janet Lewis

## Quiet voices of the earth and sky

**T**HE critic Evan S. Connell wrote of Janet Lewis, who has died aged 93, that he could not think of another writer "whose stature so far exceeds her public recognition". Such recognition as she received came mainly from her six works of prose fiction. She also wrote poetry, children's stories, verse translations and opera librettos.

Her poems, the best of which rival her marvellous prose, were the constant factor in her creative life. She began writing them as a girl, had her first poems in the great *Chicago* magazine, *Poetry*, when she was 21, and was still writing notable verse in her mid-nineties.

She was born near Chicago, and her father, Edwin Herbert Lewis, was a poet, novelist and scholar, who encouraged her young talent. The family spent their summer holidays on the island of Niasch in northern Michigan, just on the Canadian border and not far from the Great Lakes. The landscape affected her deeply and stayed with her, but still more important were her contacts with people of Native American stock. The Lewises befriended a family named Johnston, whose European ancestors had emigrated from Ireland in the 18th century and whose more recent forebears had been the daughter of an Ojibway chief.

The family saga the Johnstons told was to provide the foundation for Lewis's most ambitious work of fiction, *The Invention* (1992). This novel, which crystallised a period from the mid-18th century to the end of the 19th, is a book of some historical importance. At a time when the triumph of the white man was still celebrated, it lamented the destruction of the Ojibway culture and outlook. It also recorded, very movingly, the sometimes for-

gotten attempts of different nations — Ojibway, British, French and American — to share the country peacefully.

But before the 1930s Lewis's main preoccupation was poetry. At the University of Chicago, where she majored in French, she joined the poetry club, through which she met her future husband, the poet and critic Ivor Winters. She spent two years in Paris and, on returning in 1932, published her first collection of poetry, *The Indians In The Woods*. But by this time she was gravely ill with tuberculosis. Five years in a New Mexico sanatorium, for three of which she was confined to bed, provided new kinds of learning. They initiated a lasting passion for New Mexico's Pueblo culture, taught her patience, and instilled a sense of the frailty of human life.

When one met her, one was struck by her tranquillity and something of the same quality is present in her writings. Winters also suffered from TB and their common suffering seems to have drawn them together. They married on her recovery in 1937 and, when Winters began his graduate work at Stanford University, settled in California. They acquired a small, timber-frame house in Los Altos, near Palo Alto, which remained Lewis's home until her death.

A small plot of land came with it and they turned this to practical use, planting fruit-trees and keeping goats. They had a separate study built in the garden, a little block of quietness with a vine trailing over it. When Lewis in 1966, I was shown round the garden before we entered the house. She offered me fruit from each of the trees: guavas and kumquats, pomegranates and grapes. She also encouraged me to spend an afternoon in the study among her husband's books and pictures. A typewriter on the desk

announced that the room still functioned as a cave of making.

The couple now began a family and Winters acquired tenure in his faculty. Both of them were writing poems, both moving away from the imagist free-verse manner of their early work towards a more formal, meditative kind of writing. Lewis's manner, though, was always looser than Winters's. He, moreover, tended to see the poem as a human artefact set against nature. For her the two were more closely related: "in our lives," she wrote, "we are 'tangled with earth'."

There was also a public dimension to their lives. During the Depression they supported President Roosevelt and worked in the anti-racist movement. Then, in 1933, the public world came quite sud-

denly much closer. A colleague was falsely accused of murdering his wife. Other colleagues, who ought to have known better, accepted the charge without question, but Lewis and Winters campaigned for his acquittal. They were successful, but the incident taught Lewis something about the precariousness of justice and the moral frailty of human beings, especially where the public world is concerned. This led her to read an anonymous book called *Famous Cases of Circumstantial Evidence* (1873), which provided her

with the subjects and plots for three of her novels: *The Wife Of Martin Guerre* (1941) — her best-known book and surely a masterpiece — *The Trial Of Søren Spies* (1947) and *The Ghost Of Monsieur Scarron* (1959).

All are historical, European in setting and domestic, though all have political reverberations. Each of them, as Donald Davie has said — "is a fable about authority". This is so, but it is authority as experienced by individuals, often powerless individuals such as women, and though all three tend to emphasise the need for authority as the one foundation of peace and justice, they also expose it as a rough instrument. When the wife of Martin Guerre rejects her husband as an impostor, she is rejecting a man who has made her happier than ever her real husband did.

Lewis also wrote two books with modern settings: *Against A Darkening Sky* (1943) about California, and a collection of short fictions, *Goodbye, Son, And Other Stories* (1946). In all the novels, the prose is of stunning beauty without ever trying hard to be "poetic". The account of human feelings is impressively moving, but what holds the reader is Lewis's sense of the physical world, the objective things her characters move among.

It is perhaps this objectivity and her preference for meditation rather than drama — broadly speaking, the quietness of her tone — that has kept Janet Lewis out of the news. This is not to say that she is old-fashioned, though she prefers a simple, first-person narrative to the complexities of modernist technique. But the economy of her style, in particular her use of what Ezra Pound called "the luminous detail", establishes her as a wholly modern writer.

The death of her husband in 1968 led to a silence in

Lewis of almost 10 years. Then, quite unexpectedly, she began writing librettos for operas, six of them, some based on her own novels, others on such classics as *The Last Of The Mohicans*, predictably one of her favourite novels. Poetry returned as well. *Poems Old And New* appeared in 1981, and a collection, *The Dear First*, as recently as 1994.

Many of the later poems show Lewis in her eighth decade, stepping clear of her husband's powerful influence. Most of them are in a flexible free verse, in contrast to the tensely experimental pieces from 1932. It was a modest but remarkable late flowering.

Janet Lewis had a talent for friendship with people younger than herself, and her house was always open to visitors, especially those who cared for her work. That of her husband, to whose memory she was fiercely loyal. She leaves a daughter, a son and three grandchildren.

Clive Wilmer

Janet Lewis Winters, novelist and poet, born August 17 1899; died December 1, 1998

Death Notices

BOWMAN (Mrs) Bertha, 82, wife of the late Sir Bertha Bowman, died peacefully at her home, 10, Clarendon Road, London NW11, on December 19, 1998. Burial at St. John's Church, Richmond, Surrey, on Wednesday, 23rd December 1998, at 12 noon. Family flowers only please. Enquiries to Mrs. G. Bowman, 10, Clarendon Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1JH. Tel: 0181 871 2000.

GRIMWOOD, Hubert M.B.E., on December 19th peacefully in hospital, aged 69 years (formerly of Chislehurst, Essex). Mrs. Dorothy (née Jackson) of Nettle, Essex (née Jones, formerly Ealing, near London and Wimbledon). All enquiries to Mrs. M. J. Grimwood, 10, Clarendon Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1JH. Tel: 0181 871 2000.

MATTHEW, Colonel Sir William Leslie, K.C., D.S.O., D.C.M., D.L.C., D.L.S., died peacefully at his home, 10, Clarendon Road, London NW11, on December 19, 1998. Burial at St. John's Church, Richmond, Surrey, on Wednesday, 23rd December 1998, at 12 noon. Family flowers only please. Enquiries to Mrs. G. Bowman, 10, Clarendon Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1JH. Tel: 0181 871 2000.

NORBERT-MILLER, Hannah, born in Vienna on 26th February 1928, died peacefully in London after a short illness of 12 days on December 19th, 1998. Daughter of one of the first and most distinguished of British composers, Sir Ernest Schreger, and the wife of the late Sir Ernest Schreger. She will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved her and by her family. Burial at St. John's Church, Richmond, Surrey, on Wednesday, 23rd December 1998, at 12 noon. Family flowers only please. Enquiries to Mrs. G. Bowman, 10, Clarendon Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1JH. Tel: 0181 871 2000.

READ, Harold John, aged 79 years, former Head of Art at Abington High School, Weymouth, Dorset, died peacefully in his sleep at his home, 10, Clarendon Road, London NW11, on December 19, 1998. Burial at St. John's Church, Richmond, Surrey, on Wednesday, 23rd December 1998, at 12 noon. Family flowers only please. Enquiries to Mrs. G. Bowman, 10, Clarendon Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1JH. Tel: 0181 871 2000.

WATSON, Mrs. Mary, 82, died peacefully at her home, 10, Clarendon Road, London NW11, on December 19, 1998. Burial at St. John's Church, Richmond, Surrey, on Wednesday, 23rd December 1998, at 12 noon. Family flowers only please. Enquiries to Mrs. G. Bowman, 10, Clarendon Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1JH. Tel: 0181 871 2000.

## A Country Diary

**NEW ZEALAND:** After breaking away from the ancient super-continent of Gondwanaland, the islands we now know as New Zealand spent 90 million years in total isolation, their flora and fauna allowed to evolve free from outside influence. The history is full of descriptions of strange flightless birds, huge

ancient trees and large insects found nowhere else in the world. Then man arrived in the Maori followed by Europeans, and with them came the predators that were to cause such devastation to this astonishing diversity of wildlife, their dogs, cats, rats, stoats and weasels amongst the most destructive. So now, when

arriving at Auckland, the first signs of wildlife are likely to be relatives of the birds you have just left behind — black-birds, sparrows, thrushes, greenfinches and chaffinches, all introduced by those early pioneers to remind them of home. But away from the urban spread this is still a land of vast open spaces and towering ancient forests, where unique wildlife can be seen by the diligent naturalist.

and along the 1,500km coastline everything from mighty fjords to semi-tropical beaches exists. Offshore, seals, dolphins, whales and sea birds abound, including some of the rarest species of penguin, which still breed in the less disturbed areas. Watching them jump out of the waves, stand up, and waddle towards their burrows will be a life-long memory.

J.M. THOMPSON

## CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

THE TORNADO pilot shown on page 2 yesterday was not displaying the Iraq campaign's Desert Fox insignia. He was displaying the time-honoured insignia of 12 Squadron, Royal Air Force, introduced when it was equipped with the Falco Fox in 1928.

PER LINDBSTRAND, one of the co-pilots of Richard Branson, in his attempt to circumnavigate the world in a balloon, page 13, December 19, is Swedish not Norwegian.

IN OUR Review of the year, in *Guardian Weekend*, December 19, we appeared to attribute *The Iceman Cometh* to Tennessee Williams, instead of its rightful author, Eugene O'Neill.

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tomorrow by calling 0171 239 5889 between 11am and 5pm. After that the office will be closed until January 4, except for a limited service on December 29 and December 30 (Tuesday and Wednesday next week) for urgent complaints. Letters should be sent to: The Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 115, Farringdon Road, London EC4R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 5897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

Birthdays

Lady (Mary) Archer, scientist, 54; James Burke, broadcaster, 62; Robin Corbett, Labour MP, 68; Noel Edmonds, broadcaster, 50; Mike Molloy, former editor, Daily Mirror, 58; The Duke of Westminster, chancellor, Manchester Metropolitan University, 47; Ken Whitmore, playwright, 59; Joe Lee Wilson, blues singer, 63; Sir Peregrine Worsthorne, journalist, 75.

Memorial Services

ESMAK, Ephraim, a memorial occasion to commemorate the life and work of Ephraim will be held in Waltham College, Oxford, on Saturday, 22nd January 1999, starting in the Holywell Music Room at 2.30pm.

Marriages

HYDEMANHACKETT, On Friday, December 19th, Michael Hackett, 32, married Hilary Hackett at the Leeds Registry Office. Celebrations at a later date.

WTS place your announcement telephone 0171 733 4567 or fax 0171 733 4707 between 9am and 5pm Mon-Fri.



# Comment

## Diary

Matthew Norman

THE Prime Minister's seasonal generosity knows no bounds. Mr Tony cares, you see, (if it's possible, he cares too much), which is why he is sending thousands of signed Christmas cards to party members. One constituency organiser in the West Midlands, who must distribute about 200, reports an amazing coincidence: every single one is to a member whose subscription has lapsed. "When your team deliver the cards," writes Carol Linforth of Millbank in the accompanying letter, "it is important that they knock on the door and thank them for the continued membership of the party..." Those who have paid up get so all... but as Mr Tony might point out, there is sound precedent for this approach in the New Testament. The parable of the Prodigal Son is one example. Another is the observation that "there shall be more rejoicing in Millbank over one sinner that repenteth than for 99 loyal drones who cough up their dues on time".

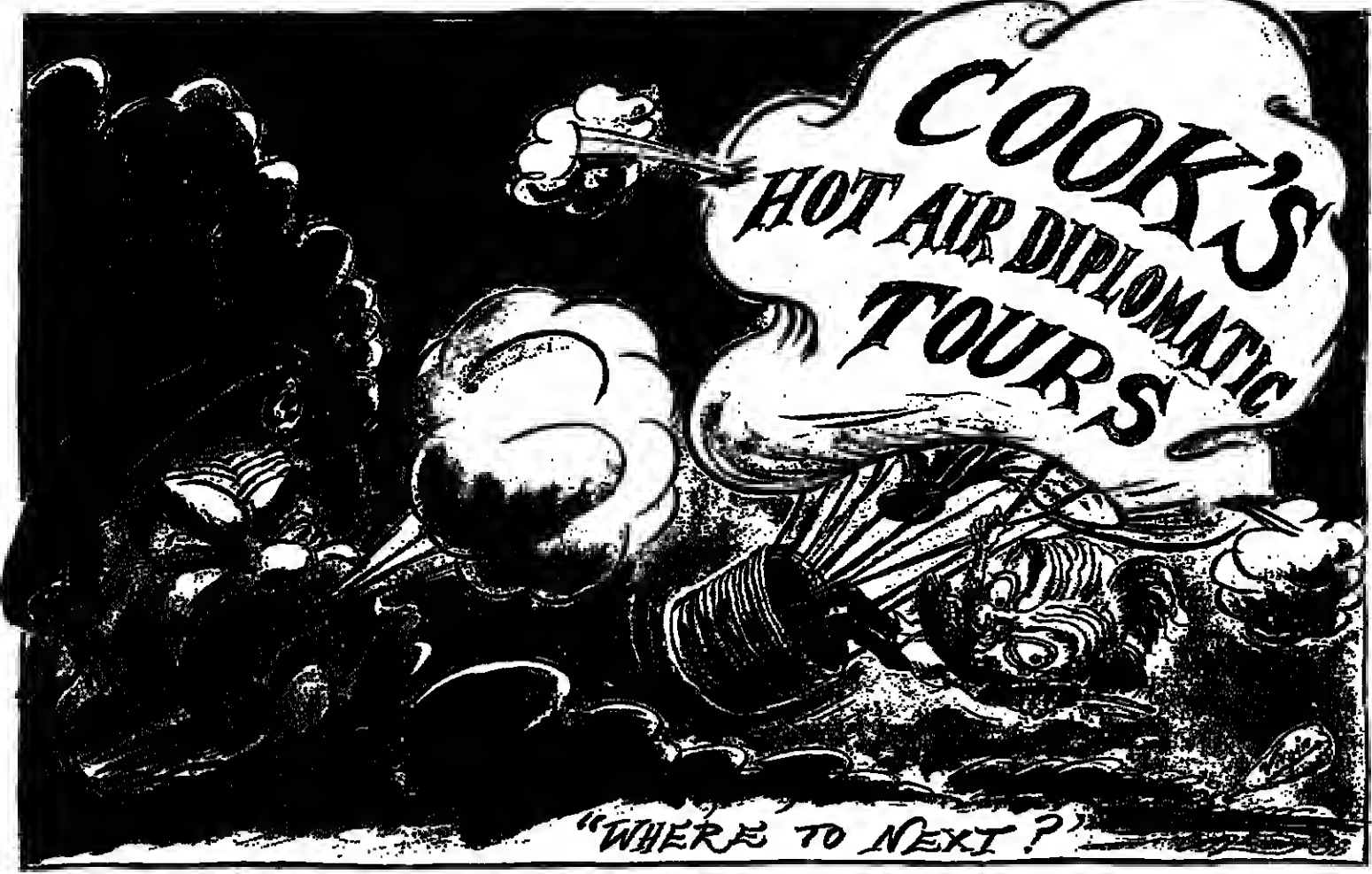
None of 1998's more perplexing puzzles, William Hague has won a Man of the Year award. In a poll on Teletext, he won 39 per cent of the vote, with Mr Tony second on 25 per cent. As media outlets go, Teletext may not be the most glamorous or prestigious, but at least it would seem to be the easiest to fix. Hats off Central Office.

RACIST outburst from an unlikely quarter reaches our attention. Black newspaper New Nation reports how its news editor Ross Slater rang the maverick black broadcaster Darius How about his perplexing performance on a discussion show concerning teenage gang rapes (Mr Howe grabbed his crotch, and stated: "West Indian children are taught from the age of ten to be sexy"). "Are you a black boy?" asked Mr Howe, apparently taking umbrage when informed that Mr Slater is white. "Why don't you go and fuck a dog?", he continued. "I'm not scared of none of you... I'll get a shotgun and stick it up your ass your white asshole." Warning to his theme, Mr Howe went on: "Listen, I don't like white people jumping up and waving black banners. Go and join the National Front, you c\*\*\*." Enchanting stuff.

In his News of the World column, my friend Michael Winner expresses his anger at the New Year's Eve strike planned by the staff of London Underground. "As always, it is you and me who'll suffer," he writes. How very true, and Michael will certainly feel the pain on Thursday week. Mind you, even at the best of times it is tricky catching the last tube home from the last Sandy Lane Hotel in Barbados.

In the magazine's bumper holiday double issue, we find the Sunshine Boys of the Spectator on rare form. Taki-George appears to have suffered a breakdown, accusing General Pinochet of being "an honest soldier who has inner strength. He has dignity," Paul Johnson, however, adopts a mellow tone. "I love the Jews and when I am defending them I feel myself a Jew of the Jews," writes Paul, considering relations between the religions. "But I am also a Christian of the Christians, and a Catholic of the Catholics." He is also a Naughty Boy of the Naughty Boys. It goes without saying, but in spite of that we wish the dear old boy the sanest and most rational of Christmases.

THE Guardian's story today about the scandalous £373,000 loan from Geoffrey Robinson has yet to sink in. People have speculated how he managed to buy so splendid a Nottingham Hill house on his then MP's salary of £43,000, but I never went along with this mischievous rumour mongering, believing — and call me an indignant fool if you will — that the won the money for his splendid Nottingham Hill house in a game of three card brag with a man he met down the pub. The whole thing is simply incredible, and the Diary will return to the matter if and when the shock has worn off.



## This ought to be the end of the line for our role as an American puppet

### Gulf crisis

Hugo Young



FOR Britain, the four-night bombing of Iraq is a moment of new and future truth. The meaning of the event will not ultimately be what it now seems to be. What it now seems to be is the triumph of an old foreign policy: instant allegiance with America, readiness to project military force under US control, pride in British uniqueness in such a stance. What it will soon do is open the room for scepticism about this old policy, and the need for Prime Minister Blair to recognise that it cannot co-exist, unmodified, with his new one. Such awareness will take time to burrow. Household gods will shudder. But now is not too soon to say what will drive the process.

In 10 Downing Street, the feeling, for the moment, is one of satisfaction with a job well done. It was, they thought, a model of planning and execution, and so, within the limits of the military, it was. They may also think Mr Blair handled himself as a sober statesman, which, again in the narrow sense of his street demeanour, he did. But this is where sobriety begins to intrude. In its own essence, never in the long history of the relationship, has a British leader been more important to an American leader, while at the same time being so devoid of all control over what the other did.

What Blair offered Clinton was not merely military support but personal credibility. He was the respectable face, the proxy at the mike, for a near-rutted man. The sense of this being a two-nation operation, which was acutely sharpened by the Prime Minister's indispensable political role. And that was just a foretaste. Unless some-

thing changes, the solitary bonding of the US and UK is set to last a long time. The strategy is now for America to remain in the Gulf as a massive presence, the permanent policeman of Saddam Hussein, with Britain alongside. This cannot be allowed, without doing terrible damage to the other course Blair has set.

Now that the four nights have happened, the issue moves beyond bombing's rights and wrongs to a question about the future of Britain as well as Iraq. The two years for which Saddam is expected, according to Whitehall, to be back in his cage need to be used for a reconsideration of our priorities.

For the episode, while doubtless full of unwitting British heroism, had a humiliating aspect which should surely jolt the mind. Britain was the follower not the leader. Her history of fealty to Washington gave her no leverage. She could be all too utterly relied on. So when Washington sidelined the UN Security Council, Britain did likewise. When Washington said bomb, we bombed. When Washington lashed itself without a single open supporter for this in the Arab world, we drew helplessly into the same zone of diplomatic exclusion. We have too much muscle to be called poodles. But we're the running dogs of Washington, trapped in the chains of an unexamined history in which the invasion of Grenada in 1983 is the only known exception from our slavish support for American aggression wherever it may occur.

There have been pay-offs for this stance. The relationship makes us gainers in both hardware and software: missiles and intelligence. The history of all these decades

cannot and should not be unpicked overnight. But, on present plans for Saddam, we face months and years of powerless attachment to a strategy for which Washington is unable to enlist much other support, and which is being pursued, in any case, by a country that is directionless and divided.

This would be a dubious enough fate without the other half of it, which is the future Mr Blair has apparently been trying to map out for European defence. Downing Street dismisses this contradiction: indeed, tries to make a virtue of it. Having taken the initiative for Anglo-French defence collaboration three weeks before Operation Desert Fox, Blair and his people feel barricaded against the charge of being over-Atlanticist. They think their card will remain good with the Europeans, and moreover that Washington will banish its hesitations about plans for semi-separate European defence. Everyone's a winner: the usual Blairite painless optimism.

THIS may endure a little while. Not even the French are yet rushing to denounce the capture of Saddam too openly. But talking to a major European foreign minister at the weekend, I did not mistake his scepticism and despair about what will happen next. Washington's simplistic assumptions about what might be made to happen in Baghdad, coupled with Anglo-American exaggeration of the military threat Iraq actually posed, attract the private scorn of some of the very European leaders Mr Blair would like to be closest to. Very soon, it will no longer be good enough for the Prime Minister to assert that he can

square these circles; indeed, that he's uniquely placed to call them interlocking triangles — to which Britain holds the key.

To the contrary. Britain is not seen — has in recent days forewarned the desire to be seen — as mediator or initiator of an EU policy towards Iraq. Though Robin Cook now talks of diplomatic offensives to explain the policy and gather support, it is US policy he's talking about. Britain's role at this time is not to lead Europe, but to bulldoze Europe into backing whatever Washington does: a doomed enterprise, and one that, in the time the bombing has made available, requires fundamental re-evaluation. For the bombing was not unsuccessful. It did knock out a lot of hardware. What it also knocked out, however, was any credible belief that repeated doses of the same treatment, at massive cost and with minimal support, administered by just two nations, are the right and only prescription for the future.

The smaller of those two nations, in particular, looks diminished, even as she counts her scalp. She was part of a policy that talked itself into an obligation to believe it. That has been the received wisdom until now. So when Kidderminster kicked up a fuss, it just looked like the same old story — local rage from people who didn't know about medical results. But recently these closures deserve a closer scrutiny. Kidderminster is among those hospitals whose imminent demise may have little to do with medical improvement and everything to do with the Gadarene dash for Private Finance Initiative deals.

We shall pay dearly for the Treasury need to hide borrowing

## Cutting up the beds

Polly Toynbee



WHEN a cry of anguish goes up from some local hospital facing closure, it's usually wise to turn a deaf ear. Rationalisation into higher specialist hospitals is almost always an improvement, however much people protest locally. Kidderminster looks at first sight like a typical case in point. Its hospital is due for closure of all its 307 in-patient beds, losing its accident and emergency department. Last week the local community health council went to the High Court to apply for a judicial review, with £50,000 raised locally for legal costs.

Thousands have been out demonstrating to keep this hospital open. All this is familiar territory. Hospital closures always cause outrage, which Labour in opposition was happy to exploit, joining local campaigns to keep open several that were rightly being shut down (Barts was just the most high profile). There is fierce local loyalty for any hospital — even if it's a ramshackle group of old Nissen huts, a pre-war fever hospital or a Victorian work house. Local families think of it fondly as their ancient place of birth and death, despite research warning that some much-loved local hospitals are indeed places of death, with low medical success rates. General surgeons struggling to do operations beyond their capability often have poor results compared with specialists in bigger hospitals. Accident and emergency units save more lives in big regional centres: a longer ambulance journey is far less dangerous than arriving in a small local unit with no specialist consultants on duty — though local people refuse to believe it.

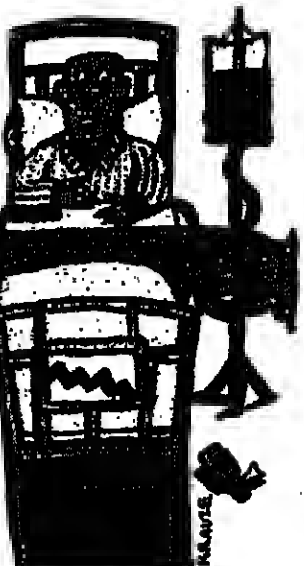
That has been the received wisdom until now. So when Kidderminster kicked up a fuss, it just looked like the same old story — local rage from people who didn't know about medical results. But recently these closures deserve a closer scrutiny. Kidderminster is among those hospitals whose imminent demise may have little to do with medical improvement and everything to do with the Gadarene dash for Private Finance Initiative deals.

Worcester Royal Infirmary is to be rebuilt with money borrowed privately under the PFI. In the process, Kidderminster and other hospitals are being merged and the whole service downsized. There will be 28 per cent fewer beds, despite average waiting list times of over a year. Borrowing money privately through PFI will cost them an extra £6 million more than if the Treasury had lent them the money — a tenth of their overall budget. All that money will have to be found from "efficiency savings" in their local running costs. So beds on one day and claimed that 40 per cent were filled with people who didn't need them — waiting for tests and consultant rounds or waiting to be discharged to nursing

homes. How this age-old problem is to be suddenly solved is not explained. For by any standards, Worcester's proposed 28 per cent bed cut in about three years is pretty severe.

The worst startling cuts will fall on the mental health services. Plans mean losing 26 acute mental beds — the very beds Health Secretary Frank Dobson has promised to increase nationally. Consultant clinical psychologist Simon O'Loughlin at Kidderminster says there are 136 beds currently in the county — already too few with around 10 mental patients now in an overspill private hospital. The chief executive of Worcester's Health Authority says there will be only 110 beds in the new hospital configuration. Kidderminster's mental health service will be devastated. It is closely integrated with local social services and community care, with patients familiar with their local hospital. In future those ill enough to need a bed will be sent over to Bromsgrove, far from the community services they know. "Many agree to come in here for observation because they know us. They'll refuse to go to Bromsgrove, so then we'll have to section them instead which will make treating them much harder."

HEALTH ministers are touring the country boasting that they are providing "the biggest hospital building programme in the history of the NHS". The question is at what price? "The galloping programme of new hospitals now being built on the Private Finance Initiative has an imperative of its own in local health planning. Is it always worth having a gleaming new hospital if it means many fewer



Such a proposed bed cut of 28 per cent in three years is pretty severe

beds at far higher cost? Once we used to inherit buildings bought by previous generations, but now under PFI we are about to pass on to the next generation far higher debts than ever before. We shall pay dearly for the Treasury's need to hide public borrowing.

PFI's only purpose is to circumvent arcane Treasury accounting practices. Money borrowed on the private market doesn't appear in the Public Spending Borrowing Requirement figures. While we preach somewhat smugly to other countries with apparently higher borrowing, we are now disguising over £10 billion of our own by living it off into the private sector, at a far higher cost than traditional government borrowing. These debts will last for 20 or 30 years, by which time the hospitals themselves may be redundant.

Every penny of interest has to be sliced off the total NHS budget and it disappears forever into private pockets. But if the money is borrowed from the Treasury, it is recycled back into the NHS. These needlessly high interest charges are being paid to keep Labour's pretence to keep Labour's pretence promises. The price of this face-saving is high and paying for it will inevitably distort local NHS priorities.

Encouraging democracy may be a better idea than dropping bombs

## Satanic outcome

### Gulf crisis

Tariq Ali

THE DEVASTATION is over. The bombers have returned to base. The missiles have been put away. We will be spared the hallucinatory trances of Tony Blair outside No. 10 Downing Street till his services are once again required by Washington. Madeline Albright and Robin Cook will be forced to terminate the orgy of moral self-righteousness with which they have attempted to drown local dissent. Peace has returned to Baghdad.

Its citizens can freely sweep over the silence of hastily-dug graves. It is an open question whether this immoral adventure has left Saddam Hussein more diminished and degraded than Clinton and Blair. Kofi Annan and President Chirac appear to think so, but what has been virtually ignored is the response of the world at large, a world largely absent

from our television screens. There has been near-universal condemnation of these raids across five continents. Many have seen the attack as a brutal attempt to strengthen sanctions and stop Iraqi oil entering the world market and causing a further decline in prices. The bombing of Baghdad has set back for at least a decade the cause of secular and democratic politics in the Muslim world.

For some years the House of Islam has been under siege from within. A new breed of radical religious fundamentalists have emerged, an expression of the despair that has swept this world. The failure of nationalism and socialism, their inability to modernise and resist the West, created a vacuum which has been filled by political Islam. In the old cold war days it was the US which funded the Muslim Brotherhood, the Jamaat-i-Islami and their brother groups. They were seen as one bulwark against communism.

Times have changed. The new leaderships and various successor groups who seek to exploit religion do so in the name of a jihad against the Great Satan. They attack the greed of tyrannical rulers and venal dictators. They attack the Saudi rulers and Gulf elites as men who make religion the backbone of reaction, a tool to perpetrate all the sins of injustice.

Dictators are best toppled by their own people, as in Indonesia

They pour scorn on the roving swarms of businessmen in designer suits. In their eyes these people are the creatures of hypocritical and unscrupulous US presidents and giant multinationals, whose only real interest is oil. They feel that the only way to defeat the king in the White House is through an appeal to Allah,

who is the king of kings. So they struggle to impose "Islamic regimes" and the divine rule of clerics, a dictatorship of the one and only Truth. They look to Iran, to the Sudan, to Algeria and some, though not many, are even partial to the crazed fanaticism of the Taliban in Kabul (a regime whose principal leaders were once on the payroll of the CIA).

Mr Blair's cheap gibe when confronted by opposition that the dissenting MP would not be permitted to speak his mind freely in Baghdad was beside the point. Could he have spoken freely in Saudi Arabia, Syria, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait or even Egypt? Saddam is not alone in ruling through coercion rather than consent.

And herein lies the problem. Democracy is largely absent from the region. Perhaps this is the only way that oil can be exploited, but if so it is time to end the cant. Madeline Albright says that the war against Islamic fundamentalism is

the "war of the future". Really? If she believes her own rhetoric she should think seriously before helping their cause. The bombing of Baghdad has further weakened the frail aqueducts of secular democratic politics in the region.

Poets and novelists, like Adonis and Darwish, Mahfouz and Munif, have defended the empire of reason and argued for a decent drapery of life for every citizen. They have defied sultans and clerics. Their voices are beginning to fade, drowned by the noise of bombs and cries of jihad.

Dictators are best toppled by their own people, as we have seen recently in Indonesia. Lifting the sanctions would help to strengthen the people of Iraq. Encouraging democratic rule in the neighbouring states would be a much better defence against Saddam than US missiles. It may already be too late.

Tariq Ali's most recent play was Ugly Rumours (with Howard Brenton)

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## Reflect and rethink

### No more bombing

SILLY insults from Alastair Campbell about intellectual grip do not begin to address the profound doubts attending British participation in the American-led bombing of Iraq — anxieties registered across the political spectrum which are likely to go on growing until there is evidence a cratered Iraq is in anyway better for Iraqis, for the region, for the world than the messy stand-off that held until last week. The misgivings are as evident among so-called realists and military experts as those whose first and admirable instinct is to deplore the use of force except where all avenues of talk and diplomacy are self-evidently exhausted. As the smoke (literally) clears some kind of interim assessment becomes both possible and necessary. And it's negative.

The Blair government (and that's a singular noun, since for all the rumours of John Prescott this or Robin Cook that, the public impatience of the Cabinet is remarkable) has chosen a perilous course. Events could make it look a fruitful gamble — say Saddam were to be toppled in a coup. For the time being the British position has been made to look all the more hazardous by "standing alone" with the United States at a moment when that country's domestic preoccupations are so strong. The cost of British policy in terms of extra defence spending is only just beginning to register. The price has also to be calculated diplomatically in terms of relations inside the European Union, in the Arab world, and in the future capacity of the United Nations

to express anything resembling the consensus of the free world. No tight calculation can yet be made but it is hard to identify immediate benefits that outweigh these expenditures, and that's even before addressing the loss of life on the ground in Iraq or the continuing perhaps deeper immiseration of its civilian population.

There would, possibly, be justification if the armed attack had created new conditions, either for political formations to take on Saddam or new steps to be made towards a regional "solution" to what is, after all, the problem of a regional anomaly. Too much can be made of riots in Damascus or Rahat (reactions in Tehran and Riyadh have been much more nuanced) but there's no escaping the way the Netanyahu government felt empowered to choose this moment to suspend the Wye River accord. It needs to be said there was no stable status quo before last Wednesday. The presence of UNSCOM created a dynamic which was leading towards some kind of response. Yesterday Americans as good as admitted that no response from the United States — with or without cover from the UN Security Council — would have meant unacceptable loss of credibility. Some people find that kind of word in a life-and-death context deeply offensive but it does have meaning, not least in a world in which, for better or worse, there is a single power capable of projecting force and maintaining international order. That power is the United States of America.

But if on balance this action was unjustified, what now? The stable door open, the Blair government turns to address the lack of support for the Anglo-American position. That means listening as well as instructing, especially in the capitals of the European Union. Does Tony Blair really want historians to compare him

with Harold Wilson in abject deference to the "special relationship"? The issue today is the Government's promise to bomb again. That commitment cannot be supported. There might be circumstances ahead when the commitment of British forces in the Gulf is once again justified, in coalition. After the UN's presence is reconstituted; after incontrovertible evidence is amassed that Saddam constitutes a potential threat. It is not now.

## Not that funny

### Spying is a serious business

JOURNALISTS find it hard to write about spies with a straight face. They lace their stories with James Bond pastiche, so that (in the current intrigue over Dominic Lawson of the Sunday Telegraph) there is much hilarity over editors in tuxedos with secretaries called Miss Moneybags. Which is all very funny so long as it is not allowed to obscure the disturbing undercurrents beginning to emerge from the mists of the Lawson story.

Mr Lawson's accusers are a long way short of proving that he is any kind of agent for the security services. All we know for sure is that while he was the editor of the Spectator he ran at least two pseudonymous articles by a serving MI6 agent about the Bosnian conflict. Mr Lawson insists that he did not know that "Kenneth Roberts" was an MI6 man. He was, he says, simply impressed by the author's knowledge of the situation and by the quality of his writing. It is possible, says Mr Lawson, that "Kenneth Roberts" was simply trying to carve out a second career as a journalist. It is far more likely

that this was a deliberate attempt to find a berth for a particular line in a mainstream magazine read by opinion-formers. As it happens, the line argued in one piece is identical to that being pushed to reporters by MI6 agents in the field in Bosnia. "Roberts" accused journalists of failing to investigate claims by the Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic that the Bosnian Muslims were responsible for the Sarajevo market massacre in 1994. This grotesque fiction served the FO agenda of resisting calls for international intervention against Serbia's genocidal pogrom.

Spectator readers were utterly innocent of the hidden provenance of, or agenda behind, this piece. That is bad enough. Yet so far there has been a deafening lack of protest at MI6's sleight of hand from either Mr Lawson or the present editor of the magazine. The Sunday Times goes further and alleges that at least three MI6 officers claimed to be Spectator journalists while working undercover in Bosnia, Belgrade and Moldova.

This is stupidity of a dangerous order: the sort of behaviour which could well jeopardise the lives of genuine reporters working in war zones. More silence from the Spectator. No word from Tom King, in charge of parliamentary oversight. Is it that they think it's just a giggle? Or do they really fail to see the point?

## The Santer clause

### Church of England fights back

THIS being the season of goodwill, the theological argument is warming up nicely. The central question is time-honoured — what is Christmas about? A recent survey of Internet users left no doubt: of 2,500

respondents, only 9 per cent closely associated Christmas with Jesus Christ; 53 per cent saw Santa Claus as the key to the Christmas experience. Christians responded with predictable dismay, complaining that the "true meaning" of the festival had been overwhelmed by a tide of consumerism. But the Church of England is no longer prepared to turn the other cheek: now it means business.

Last month, it launched its own web site to fight for the soul of cyberspace. This week, it launched a campaign in the Midlands, showing a congregation of troubled individuals tag-lined: "You don't have to be perfect to go to church this Christmas." The fact that the campaign was launched in the Midlands may not be coincidental; last month Birmingham council, claiming it was anxious not to offend those in other faiths, renamed Christmas "Winterfest". The Bishop of Birmingham, the Right Revd Mark Santer, said he laughed out loud at the name, and the homophonic apt Santer has been a key supporter of the Church's Christmas ad campaign.

Over the weekend, the Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, made a stinging attack on the Millennium Dome, contrasting its *foie de grandeur* with the simplicity and humility of Christ's birth. The Dome neatly encapsulates the God v Mammon argument, and pity the Bishop of Maidstone, the Right Revd Gavin Reid, who chairs the Archbishops' Millennium Advisory Group and has to "sell" the Spirit Zone to the traditionalists. The Church of England, in its general acceptance of the Dome and now its willingness to take its message to television, is seeking an accommodation with Mammon; it remains to be seen whether there will be room at the Holiday Inn.

## Letters to the Editor

### The balloon goes up — and down

YOU failed to point out that operators incur additional incremental costs at smaller sized stores in inner city areas (Stores "charge more in poor areas", December 21).

These higher costs are typically the result of delivery restrictions imposed both locally and nationally and the need to provide extra security, especially in the more deprived areas.

While you rightly identified lack of competition as one reason why prices can be higher, I would add that the Government can do more to promote competition in the high street by making it easier for food retailers to operate in town centres.

David Simons, Chief executive, Sumerfield.

BAA wants to build a cargo airport at Alconbury! And what BAA wants, BAA gets — after all, they are getting a fifth terminal at Heathrow in spite of overwhelming local opposition, and having forsworn a third runway, they have to find some way of accommodating all the extra passenger flights.

What better way than unloading the "less valuable" cargo flights onto our rural brethren? If John Major and Brian Mawhinney don't like the idea, perhaps they should start campaigning against Heathrow T5.

Simon R Hill, London.

RICHARD Branson has found something large under his flight path. It's called China. It was certainly there when he took off and now our Civil Service is being deployed to organise a right of passage.

This is bad but faintly explicable news for three Virgin train passengers. John Featherstone, Hemel Hempstead.

## Four strikes and for owt

WHAT Phillip Knightley did not spell out in the "jaunted" media coverage of Desert Fox (Letters, December 21) is that the Ministry of Defence decided, as long ago as the Falkland War, that British journalists should be prevented from doing their job properly in the Gulf war. Those of us accompanying British ground troops into battle were deceived by the Ministry of Defence, which held back all the reports sent in the first 48 hours of fighting.

More fool us for believing them, perhaps. But the public should have no illusion about the degree of control that the authorities can now exert when British troops are in action.

Philip Jacobson, London.

YOU point out, rightly (Leader, December 21), that a medium-term strategy is lacking in the present dispute with Iraq. We are not sure who is to blame for the lack of strategy, or deny him the capability of waging war in the Middle East.

Getting rid of him would involve the use of ground troops. Here a difficulty arises, since this would involve American casualties. The domestic US effect of this would be to undermine the standing of a President already in dire trouble.

Every policy has a price, and there is undoubtedly a price to pay for our unqualified support of every American action. Our position in the Middle East is weakened, future trading prospects in particular being affected. We risk the contempt reserved for the bully's accomplice. And British clings throughout the world face increased risk. Our influence in Europe is also undermined.

Britain must appear to prefer the subordinate role of "junior partner" to the US rather than becoming a reliable, fully participating member of the European community.

Unfortunately this is all part of a much wider Middle Eastern problem, including the rarely discussed Israeli nuclear arsenal.

Name and address supplied.

FIND it extraordinary that the justifiatory propaganda issued by our Government contains no clear statement of how Britain's national interests are served by the onslaught on Iraq.

The childish language employed by the Prime Minister and his colleagues to demonise Saddam Hussein applies, as everyone knows, to an unfortunately wide range of dictators, who similarly commit atrocities against their own people. Nor is he the only regime engaged in manufacturing weapons of mass destruction.

Equally extraordinary was the palpably totalitarian atmosphere encouraged by Mr Blair in the Commons "debate" on his Government's bombardment of Iraq. Particularly disturbing was the pseudo-patriotism employed by Blair's bully boys as they sought to silence criticism by claiming that it betrayed our military personnel.

However, one tries to interpret this disreputable display, the conclusion here is inescapable: New Labour — Old Imperialism. I.M. Lewis, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology, London School of Economics.

UNLIKE, I suspect, most of your readers, you took an agonisingly long time (while thousands of Iraqis were being killed by Anglo-American air and sea) to see clearly the nature of Desert Fox: truly the unseemable in full pursuit of the unspeakable.

But I will not allow you to misrepresent my position. As far back as the 1970s Osama bin Laden had even taken up politics! I was co-ordinating anti-Saddam activities in

Scotland, and no speech I ever made on Iraq leaves anyone who wants to hear, in any doubt that my views have not changed.

And by the way my so-called "salute" was to Iraq's 22 million sufferers and not to their leader. Saddam Hussein is a second rate Saladin, but President Clinton, the lying liar, carries the banner of the Crusaders with all the believability of the Rev Jimmy Swaggart.

George Galloway MP, House of Commons.

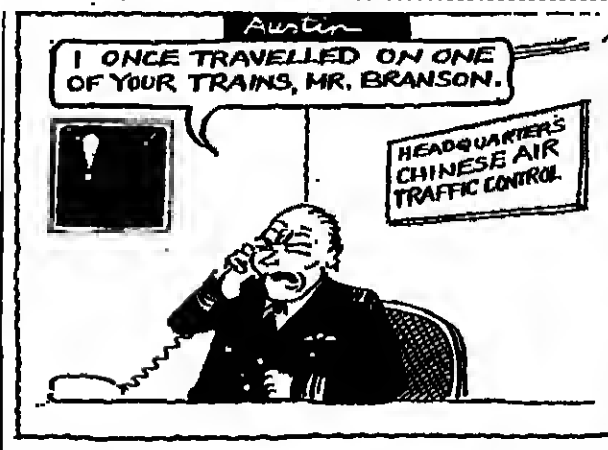
THE support given by Liberal Democrat MPs to the unlawful aggression against Iraq must again call into question the wisdom of the accord drawn up between Paddy Ashdown and the Prime Minister.

It is hard to believe that, had the LibDems chosen a full-blooded oppositional role to a Government with a dangerously large majority they would have so tamely accepted the Cruise missile strikes against the Sudan, or have backed the Crime and Conspiracy Bill.

We should have been unwilling to give our support to the strikes against Iraq because of our party's strong allegiance to the UN which has been "degraded and diminished" by the Anglo-US action, and because of our equally firm conviction that Britain's future interests are best served by a closer union with our European partners, most of whom have been either opposed to the strikes or lukewarm in their support.

We should also have taken far greater account of the effect of the action upon Arab sensibilities. Surely Paddy Ashdown knows that most Muslims are convinced that the US has declared war on Islam.

Bombing Iraq has strengthened that conviction given Saddam more influence upon popular Muslim opinion. Cllr John Hipkin, Liberal Democrats, Cambridge.



## Pensioners demand justice

THE headline on your pension letters (No joy for pensioners, December 17) should have read "No justice for pensioners". We are not talking about hand-outs, but about a scheme we contributed to during our working life, fully expecting our pensions would be honoured by whatever government was in power.

We have a situation where all political parties are happy to shrug off past commitments and let the value of our pension dwindle to a point where it is virtually worthless. Pensioners are now effectively disenfranchised. The track record of private pension schemes is such that it would probably be better to

keep your savings under the mattress. P.R. Morris, West Malvern, Worcs.

PRESENT the implication that those of us who are reduced to life on the state pension are mostly hopeless, jobless and work shy. There are many women who find themselves in a similar position to mine, divorced in mid-life and so pension-less. It isn't that I've neglected to organise a pension; I was never in a job with either serious pay or long-term prospects. It's bad enough struggling along on the breadline, without being branded as an idiot.

Name and address supplied.

## Open all hours

CHARLOTTE Raven (it wasn't big, it wasn't clever, December 17) is right to blame the problems associated with bar and club life on the issue of fixed closing times. Manchester City Council has long argued for the freedom of local authorities to decide opening hours, thus allowing "staggered" closing times to diminish the rugby-scrum effects on our streets.

We have undertaken a number of initiatives over the years with local magistrates to liberalise opening and closing times for the city's booming bars and nightclubs. Not only did the tax queues disappear, but availability of taxis increased, thus limiting the chance for bogus taxi drivers playing their trade. And the police actually reported a fall in crime and public-order incidents.

Cllr Richard Lees, Manchester City Council.

## A food by any other name would be just as genetically modified

I WAS interested to read that Professor Black (Letters, December 19) doesn't want us to use the term "genetically engineered food".

The industry has moved from "genetically engineered", through "modified" to the more reassuringly old-fashioned "biotechnology". But to get away from any unpleasant connotations that genetics, engineering or technology might have when applied to your breakfast, "life sciences" is the preferred option.

The nuclear industry tried this trick when they renamed the Windscale nuclear reprocessing plant Sellafield. It did not work. Peter Melchett, Executive director, Greenpeace.

PROFESSOR Black misses the point of Lord Melchett's article. The point which campaigners wish to have heard is that the public's interests are not being served by hiding the reality of genetic

cally modified food. We have to ask, just why is the GM industry so reluctant to shout their wares from the roof tops?

The professor muddies the waters by confusing natural selection, scientific breeding and genetic modification. GM deliberately introduces genes which could never naturally be introduced into the plants or animals. The public is also right to be concerned about GM crops which are engineered to be resistant to some pesticides, because there is a very real likelihood of the "Gee-y" getting out of the bottle. There comes a time, occasionally, when the scientific possibility is neither desirable nor responsible.

Dr Nina Baker, Scottish Green Party.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a full postal address. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. Please provide a reference to the relevant article.

## Endpiece: hero talk

### Roy Hattersley



THIS advertising industry prides itself on being honest, decent and something else I cannot remember because it is rarely on view in television commercials and on billboards. It also insists that it exists to help ignorant consumers gratify endogenous needs rather than persuade middle spendthrifts to waste money on trash. So there must be people who have felt frustrated for years — deprived

until now of the chance to buy a mobile telephone which changes its colour at the whim of a fashion-conscious subscriber.

However, creating, rather than meeting, demand is not the advertisers' worst offence this Christmas. There is a mobile telephone commercial which has all the aesthetic attraction of a finger nails scratched on glass. The slogan of the advertisement, is "one 2 one" and the sales pitch is built on various celebrities revealing the name of the person with whom they would most like to have an intimate conversation. At times when affluent youths are thought to be watching television, the come-on is delivered by Ian Wright and Chris Evans.

Ian Wright is a great striker, an ebullient personality, a rotten chat-show host and an icon to the young black British. As well as a huge success — money, fame and personal satisfaction — he exudes a harsh refusal to be

pushed around. On and off the football field, he is immensely proud of being who he is. That instinct guarantees he is conspicuously reluctant to be treated with anything but respect. It is one of the qualities which makes him attractive despite having gained the winning goal for West Ham when they beat Sheffield Wednesday a couple of months ago. However, Mr Wright has no great record of interest or activity in politics. Notwithstanding that gap in his known enthusiasms, he chose to have his "one-to-one" with Martin Luther King and — in tribute to his own volatile temper — asked how his hero was able to remain calm in face of white-supremacist provocation. Or was Martin Luther King chosen for him?

From what I know of the advertising industry, I suspect that the choice was made for him after weeks of careful market research. I do not suspect that an account executive held Ian Wright's hand,

because he is a footballer. Subjects for commercials are routinely decided by scientific calculation. That may be professionally understandable, but it proves a squalid point. The industry exists to pretend that there is virtue and emotion in the tricks of television, hero and hero worship united on a cloud. And there was a moment of cartoon action drawn in the style of a Sergeant Pepper record sleeve. I make no complaint about that. In death as in life, John Lennon is part of show business. But the young man who defied the tanks in Tiananmen Square is not. Yet he suddenly flashed onto our

screens — brave, alone and apparently a reason for buying a mobile telephone. I risk being accused of gross pomposity by recording my distaste for the decision — however it was taken — to exploit the memory of Martin Luther King and evoke the spirit of Tiananmen Square in order to sell consumer durables. It is not a question of good taste. Whenever I hear that subject mentioned, I reach for my whoopee cushion. Even in the days of militant female protest, I took no exception to advertisements for "ladies" lingerie. They never made me want to wear it. But I did not believe that the sight of all that flesh did anybody much harm.

Using dead heroes as door-to-door salesmen is different. The slightest criticism of the advertising industry always provokes what our detractors call a disproportionate response. Anyone who suggests that choosing the right shampoo might not make you

the British javelin champion becomes an instant enemy of the people. I know about you, the angry letters proclaim. You want a Soviet economy in which a ministry of distribution tells us how much firewood we can buy. Without advertising, they say, we will all have to queue up to buy shoes made out of old tyres and live on cabbage soup.

I do not want to close down those agencies with strange sounding trouble-barrelled names and no sense of propriety. They are essential to the society in which we live — an economy which sacrifices social justice for the freedom of those who can afford it to choose between different sorts of mobile telephones. But it is possible to be necessary without being admirable. Near where I live in Derbyshire, a man collects rotting sheep carcasses from the moors and sells them for unimaginable purposes. I am told that, without him, our general well-being would be at risk. But I

## Falling behind with the rent?

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Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239 9610  
Fax: 0171-833 4456

# Finance Guardian

## Inflation threat recedes



Building for growth... Chinese builders at work on a new Shanghai viaduct, part of the country's huge public investment programme

PHOTOGRAPH BY EUGENE HONKOWAP

## IMF urges more rate cuts

Charlotte Denry

**T**HE Bank of England has room to make further cuts to the cost of borrowing next year, as the threat of inflation recedes, according to the International Monetary Fund.

The IMF said yesterday it was projecting a sharp slowdown in UK growth in 1999 while deteriorating global economic conditions mean inflation is likely to fall below the Government's target of 2.5 per cent.

For the second successive year the fund has been forced to update its biannual estimates for the world economy because financial turbulence has made its original forecast look too optimistic.

While the immediate threat that market turmoil will throw the world into recession has lessened, "it would be premature to consider the difficulties to be over".

The IMF's economists now think the world economy will grow by just 2.3 per cent in 1999, 0.3 percentage points lower than it was forecasting two months ago. In May, the fund estimated the world economy would grow by 3.7 per cent next year.

The Washington-based institution estimates UK growth is likely to slow to 0.9 per cent next year while unemployment will rise by 160,000. The revision puts the

fund in line with most independent UK forecasters and below the Treasury's prediction of 1.5 per cent growth.

The IMF said the three cuts to interest rates instituted by the Bank of England since October which have taken interest rates from their peak of 7.5 per cent down to 6.25 per cent were appropriate, but that "monetary policy is still

relatively tight, however, and there is significant scope for rates to be cut further as growth weakens and inflation concerns recede".

But the slowdown will be short-lived, according to a separate IMF report on the UK also published yesterday. It gives a thumbs-up to changes to economic policy-making instituted by the Labour

Government. The new rules for the public finances and the Government's decision to put the Bank in charge of setting interest rates put the UK in line with best practices internationally, the fund said in its annual assessment of UK economic policies.

The Chancellor Gordon Brown, welcomed the IMF assessment as a vindication

of the "tough actions" taken by the Government. But the Treasury said there were no plans to follow the fund's advice to change the main measure of price pressure in the economy to the standardised European index.

Despite lowering its overall forecast for the world econ-

omy, the IMF said the immediate threats to global growth had eased after central banks in most industrialised countries cut rates in the latter part of the year. But it identified five possible threats to its forecast which could still throw the world economy into recession next year.

Private investment flows into emerging countries have fallen to very low levels after the Russian debt default in August and some countries could face a balance of payments crisis as a result.

The outlook in Japan, the world's second largest economy, remains uncertain, and questions remain about the adequacy of recent stimulus packages.

Trade adjustments could lead to destabilising moves in exchange rates between the major currencies. Further appreciation of the yen would be "particularly unhelpful".

The large trade adjustments as a result of the Asian crisis could lead to a rise in protectionist pressures which would cut into world growth.

Finally, the recovery in stock markets since August means equity prices, particularly in the US, are back in a range that may not be sustainable.

The materialisation of the above risks, even on a relatively moderate scale, could easily cut world growth by a further percentage point in 1999.

## Bank losses are trade balance's gain

Charlotte Denry

**B**ITAIN'S trading balance with the rest of the world improved markedly over the summer, despite the buffeting exporters are receiving from the strength of sterling.

A record surplus on investment income helped propel the current account to £3.5 billion into the black between July and September. It is the second highest quarterly surplus on record, according to the Office for National Statistics, and almost wipes out the deficits of £1.4 and £1.3 billion notched up in the first six months of the year.

But the ONS said the improvement in the current account - measuring the

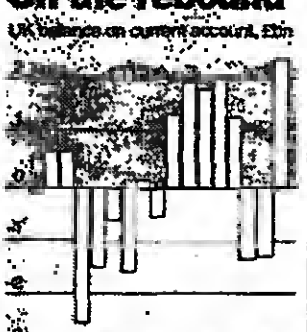
balance of visible and invisible trade - was largely the result of the huge losses made by foreign-owned banks based in the City during the financial turbulence in August and September.

This reduced the profits they sent out of the UK by £3.5 billion compared with the previous quarter, while overseas profits of British firms increased, resulting in a surplus of £5.16 billion on investment income.

Separate figures, also published yesterday by the ONS, showed the pace of economic growth slowed to 0.4 per cent in the third quarter, in line with earlier estimates.

Analysts said the buoyant overall result for the current account disguised

further deterioration in the visible trade balance. The deficit on trade in goods for the third quarter was £5.2 billion, the highest



recorded since the second quarter of 1990.

"This reflected the weakening of exports to non-European Union countries - especially Asia and Russia - and a pick up in import volumes as domestic demand remained fairly solid," said Dharshini David at HSBC Markets.

"With the strength of the pound still likely to impact on export volumes in coming months, a further deterioration in the trade in goods balance is likely."

The Treasury is forecasting an overall deficit on the current account for 1998 of £1.75 billion, but Ms David said another strong result for investment income next quarter could result in a small overall surplus for the year.

## Swiss millions buy 'boutique'

Jill Treanor

**M**ORE than 100 of the City's top investment bankers jumped on the country's rich list yesterday after selling their firm to Swiss Re, the Zurich-based insurance company. They own and work at Fox-Pitt Kelton, one of the City's last investment banking "boutiques".

The sale will mean hefty payouts for the bankers who owned Fox-Pitt Kelton, many of whom may find their stakes are valued at more than £1 million. They will initially receive shares in Swiss Re, however, rather than cash.

City sources estimated that Fox-Pitt Kelton might be worth between \$50 and \$150 million. The exact price of the transaction was not disclosed.

The deal has also been devised so that "key" bankers are locked in for five years. Among those thought to be tied in are chairman Anthony Hamilton, chief executive Colin McGill and leading analyst Bob Yates.

"We're all staying on. There's no change in personnel at all," Mr McGill said yesterday.

Although highly secretive, Fox-Pitt Kelton has an excellent reputation in the City for its knowledge of the financial service sector.

Mr McGill said yesterday

that Fox-Pitt Kelton had received a number of bids approaches in the past but had refused to sell out until now. It had been persuaded to sell to Swiss Re because the insurer had allowed the firm to continue to operate as Fox-Pitt Kelton and under its existing management structure.

"Although independence is important, what is also important is access to capital," said Mr McGill yesterday.

Swiss Re has bought Fox-Pitt Kelton because its clients were increasingly asking for advice not just on insurance - its specialist field - but also on wider issues such as mergers and acquisitions and raising money on the capital markets.

Set up in 1971, Fox-Pitt Kelton specialises in advising financial services firms, particularly insurance companies, on mergers and acquisitions. It also researches and analyses financial services companies and also has a fund management operation.

Oliver Fox-Pitt, one of the founders, continues to play a day-to-day role in the company although Robin Kelton sold out in 1993.

It is owned by more than half of its 200 employees in London and New York and reported revenues of \$85 million in the financial year to April.

## From rags to redundancies for British textile companies

Tom McGhie

**T**HE economic crisis in Asia and the strong pound has again played havoc with the British textile industry, threatening jobs and plunging Dawson International into the red.

The Scottish-based company which owns the Fringle knitwear outfit was yesterday forced to issue a profit warning. Chief executive Peter Forrest said profits for the second half of the year to January 2, 1999, were likely to be significantly below market expectations. Losses for the year before exceptional items are likely to be around £11 million. The company will not be paying a final dividend.

The Sherwood Group, which has a bra and lace factory in Cumbernauld, Scotland, has been forced to announce 400 redundancies as sales plunge as the market is flooded by cheap imports. Jobs will go in Scotland and at the firm's factories in France, Germany, Holland and Italy.

Managing director Jim Telfer said sales of bras had been badly affected by the pound. The board had decided that the solution was to cut back capacity by 25 per cent to offset falling sales.

Sherwood has also been affected by changes in fashion and a fall in demand in South

East Asia for its lace products. The company has put aside \$8.8 million for the closures.

Blame was placed on the US where the problems at Dawson International US businesses which concentrate on thermal-wear sales. The unusually high temperatures in November and December have resulted in unprecedented product returns. Sales and profits for the year will be lower than in 1997, and the company will spend \$5.4 million closing plants and making 320 redundancies in the US.

UK businesses are continuing to be hit by the strength of sterling, the continuing weak-

ness in the Asian markets and the well signposted sharp downturn in the UK retail clothing sector.

Mr Forrest said: "We believe that the timely actions taken earlier this year, combined with the changes to be implemented in the US in January 1999, will ensure that the group will remain in a position to exploit any upturn in consumer trading."

In September, Dawson International revealed worsening losses of £23.6 million in the first half of the year. The company failed to find a buyer earlier this year when it was forced to shed 700 jobs to focus on its core cashmere business. Shares have plunged from a high of 65p this year to 9p where it was trading yesterday.

Plans to redevelop a former Royal Marines barracks could create up to 2,000 new jobs in a city that has been hit by post cold war defence cuts.

English Partnerships, the government-sponsored body set up to regenerate vacant and abandoned buildings, confirmed yesterday it had acquired the redundant Seaton Barracks in Plymouth and would start work on transforming the site early in the new year. The 94-acre site, standing empty since 1995, has already been zoned for employment uses by Plymouth City Council.

## Channel ferry premiere for Caine gluttony

Terry Macalister

**T**HE actor Michael Caine is moving into the cross-channel catering business by offering food from his Langan's Brasserie on P&O Stena Line ferries.

The first nautical Langan's Brasserie will open on the 28-tonne super-ferry Burgundy in the new year with the rest starting in time for the summer season on six other vessels which ply between Dover and Calais.

Ferry companies are desperate to attract new business as they prepare for the probable loss of duty free sales on June 30 and face increasing competition from the Channel Tunnel. P&O clearly believes it must go upmarket to ditch the "booze cruise" tag.

To prepare, 40 ferry chefs, waiters and waitresses have been working at Langan's in the West End of London under the supervision of Mr Caine's co-owner, Richard Shepherd. He said: "We are very proud to be working with the best ferry company."

Menus are still being drawn up, but will include Langan's favourites, including bangers and mash with white onion sauce, cod and chips, and salmon and leek fishcakes.

## Notebook

### Stand by for a rocky 1999



Alex Brummer

**H**ERE in the UK the section of the International Monetary Fund's update on the world economic outlook which will capture the most attention is the call to action at the Bank of England's monetary policy committee. The IMF economists are in little doubt that there is significant scope for interest rates to be cut further as growth weakens and inflation recedes. So, in the IMF view, the prospect for cheaper borrowing and mortgages in the months ahead is excellent.

But then one has to ask how did the UK (and much of the rest of the industrial world for that matter) reach a point that even the tough policymakers at the IMF have joined the doves on the MPC in demanding lower interest rates?

It is the global financial crisis, stupid. Turmoil in the financial system, which has spread out from Japan, and East Asia since June 1997, has degraded industrial production across the globe and led the IMF to downgrade its growth forecast for 1999 on four occasions.

The latest forecast shows the world economy expanding by 2.2 per cent next year; that is down from 2.5 per cent in October 1997, after the East Asian typhoon was unleashed. Nevertheless, the Fund economists appear hopeful that there can be an upturn by the year 2000, when they see global output climbing by 3.5 per cent.

Anyone, however, looking to the IMF for comfort that the global financial crisis is past its worst will find precious little. Despite the efforts by the industrial economies to stabilise world markets - with bail-outs from Korea to Brazil, the rescue for Long-Term Capital Management and cuts in the cost of money, the Fund argues that the balance of risks remains on the downside. In plainer language this is: "The road to the lifeboat is still a long one."

So, what then are those risks? The emerging markets problem is not yet over. Many of the emerging market countries are likely to encounter difficulties meeting their debt obligations when capital inflows have all but dried up.

The consequence of this could be a series of destabilising talks on debt rescheduling further need to squeeze trade imbalances by constraining domestic growth and even another round of currency depreciations.

The second danger area is Japan. The IMF has retreated from the possibility of recovery in 1999 forecasting a further 0.5 per cent fall in real

GDP following the 2.5 per cent decline this year. The clearest risk is that the clean-up operation at Japan's banks will prove insufficient to convince markets that Tokyo is coming to terms with its problems.

The third area of uncertainty - which could be particularly important for free floating sterling - is currency instability among the industrial countries. The IMF accepts that some revaluation of the yen and the euro, against an overvalued US dollar, would be useful. But there is a clear worry that the markets will over-correct, particularly in the case of the yen, leading to severe turbulence. As George Soros has noted, in any such change in conditions on the foreign exchange market the pound would be particularly vulnerable.

The fourth area of vulnerability is protectionism, particularly in Asia. The way trade relations can quickly spin out of control has just been illustrated by the US which has imposed 100 per cent duties on 16 European-made categories of product from handbags to chandeliers, as a result of the banana wars. There is some evidence that world trade already is falling off a cliff.

The greatest risk of all to the present recovery, according to the IMF economists, is the levels reached by equity markets which "may not be sustainable". This is particularly the case on Wall Street. The US economy is particularly vulnerable to a decline on Wall Street. Consumer spending in the US is being held up by the "wealth effect" with people who have made gains on the stock market spending as if those profits have been crystallised. If the stock market were to fall, then consumer spending could come crashing down with it, destroying US growth and sending shockwaves to the rest of the world. Certainly this is the risk which is seen as most real by leading private sector economists.

**O**N TOP of these risks is the decline in oil prices. The bombing of Iraq led to a temporary rally in crude oil prices. But after rising to \$11.35 on the day Desert Fox began they tumbled back to \$9.65 in the latest trading session. The effect on this is to squeeze incomes in oil producing developing countries from the Arabian Gulf to Mexico and to exert downward pressure on other commodity prices.

That the IMF felt it necessary at all to produce an updated year end world outlook report - so soon after their October publication - indicates the gravity of the present situation. Conditions may have stabilised since the collapse of LTCM in October, but the world economy is by no means out of the danger zone. In the UK the growth outlook has been lowered again to 0.9 per cent, which is near recession levels. The next year looks as if it will be as perilous as the one which has just passed.

## Banana-mad US bans bags

Stephen Bates in Brussels

**T**HE US administration initiated war on a new front yesterday as its trade department announced plans to target a bizarre list of imports from the European Union in retaliation for alleged failure to open markets to banana imports from US multinationals.

The 16 products listed in Washington have nothing in common - except they have nothing to do with bananas. The list includes pecorino cheese, sweet biscuits, bath preparations, candles, handbags, paperboard, cartons, modern lithographs, knitted sweaters, bedlinen, lead-acid storage batteries, coffee and tea makers and chandeliers.

The US administration nevertheless said trade in the items was worth hundreds of millions of dollars a year, the equivalent of what Americans claim their banana exporters are losing in Europe.

Prohibitive duties of 100 per cent on the products will

come into force from February 1 in what is escalating into the biggest trade row ever between the world's two biggest trading blocs.

At the request of US wine producers, one of the EU's most successful exports - wine - was not listed on the grounds that there are hopes of gaining a wider US foothold in European markets.

TOWEST RATES - BANK SELLS			
Australia 2.54	Germany 2.70	Malaysia 3.37	Singapore 2.72
Austria 16.90	Greece 4.55	Malta 0.61	South Africa 9.70
Belgium 55.89	Hong Kong 12.69	Netherlands 3.04	Spain 229.44
Canada 2.537	India 7.151	New Zealand 3.13	Sweden 33.15
Cyprus 0.872	Ireland 1.047	Norway 2.23	Switzerland 2.19
Denmark 12.36	Italy 2.78	Portugal 278.47	Turkey 100.00
Finland 8.32	Italy 2.78	Saudi Arabia 6.20	US 1.0374
France 5.0585	Japan 1.00	Supplied by NatWest (excluding rupee, shilling and riyal)	



Racing

# Summit in peak form for National

Tony Paley

UNANIMOUS bookmaker opinion is that Dom Samourai will win the 1998 renewal of the National Hunt Cup at Cheltenham next Monday — but last year's winning connections are still backing their runner. Twelve months ago Nigel Twiston-Davies' gelding, the subsequent winner of the Martell Grand National, fended off the late thrust of Dom Samourai by a length and three-quarters, giving the Martin Pipe runner 13th. With that concession increased by 2lb — Earth Summit emerged as the new top-weight with 11st 10lb at yesterday's fourth stage. Layers favour Dom Samourai to turn things round. After 21 acceptors were left in the £50,000-added handicap, the sponsors have last season's runner-up as their 3-1 favourite, with Earth Summit second choice at 4-1. But Nigel Payne of the Summit Partnership was in very hopeful mood yesterday. "Dom Samourai is handicapped to finish level with him but I don't think the winning distance last year was necessarily an accurate one," he said. "Tom (Jenks) was so far clear two out that he eased down quite a bit. He stepped over the last and then had to shake him up again when Dom Samourai came out of the clouds. "But had Earth Summit kept going at the same pace as in the Becher Chase, when he overdropped below his top cruising speed even when he was on his own, I think he would have won the Welsh National by a bit further. He loves his racing at the moment and he does seem to be improving."

## Rely on Rooster to call tune

VENETIA WILLIAMS continues to have her horses in excellent form and should send out another winner with the versatile Raffles Rooster (1.15) in the Tannors Burgundy Handicap Chase at Ludlow, writes Tony Paley. The selection, who has good form on the flat and over hurdles, looked a potentially useful recruit to easing when winning easily at Pontefract last month.

## Ludlow Jackpot card with guide to the form

TONY PALEY		TOP FORM	
1.24.5	Baroness	Edwin Haydn	1.24.5
1.30.0	Baroness (susp)	Baroness	1.30.0
1.35.0	Baroness	Baroness	1.35.0
1.40.0	Baroness	Baroness	1.40.0
1.45.0	Baroness	Baroness	1.45.0
1.50.0	Baroness	Baroness	1.50.0
1.55.0	Baroness	Baroness	1.55.0
2.00.0	Baroness	Baroness	2.00.0
2.05.0	Baroness	Baroness	2.05.0
2.10.0	Baroness	Baroness	2.10.0
2.15.0	Baroness	Baroness	2.15.0
2.20.0	Baroness	Baroness	2.20.0
2.25.0	Baroness	Baroness	2.25.0
2.30.0	Baroness	Baroness	2.30.0
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3.05.0	Baroness	Baroness	3.05.0
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## Football

## British seat at risk on world body

Mark Bradley and Ian Ross

THE privileged position Britain has enjoyed in the world game for more than 50 years may be lost in the wake of the cash-for-votes scandal at the Football Association.

Since 1946 the four home countries have had the right to nominate a FIFA vice-president, giving them a uniquely strong position on the executive committee of world football's governing body.

But three members of the executive committee have told the Northern Ireland FA president Jim Boyce that a motion calling for the end to the right will be debated at FIFA's special congress in Los Angeles on July 9.

"That would be a very serious and potentially damaging development for British football," Boyce said. "The other European countries have always backed the position of the British Isles but I'm not sure that they would do now."

Boyce fears that the mood in Europe has turned against the home nations over the past year or so.

The FA first courted opposition by apparently ignoring a gentleman's agreement with Germany to support their 2006 World Cup campaign in

exchange for backing to host Euro 96.

Then it went against the rest of Europe and switched allegiance from UEFA's president Lennart Johansson to Sepp Blatter during the race for the FIFA presidency.

The controversy over the £3.2 million loan which the FA's chairman Keith Winstanley agreed to give the FA of Wales to back his attempt to displace Scotland's David Wiliam as the home nations' vice-president has hardly improved England's reputation.

Will, the only one of the seven vice-presidents not to represent a confederation, stressed that the prospect of a motion being debated was an "unconfirmed rumour".

Liverpool's attempts to sign the Cameroon defender Rigobert Song are in danger of collapse. Song's Italian club Salernitana want more than £3 million, while Liverpool are offering around £2 million.

The France and Juventus midfielder Zinedine Zidane has been named European Footballer of the Year.

**EUROPEAN FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR:** 1. Zinedine Zidane (France); 2. Davor Štefanić (Croatia); 3. Ronaldo (Brazil); 4. Michael Owen (England); 5. Roberto Carlos (Brazil); 6. Dennis Bergkamp (Netherlands); 7. Michael Laudrup (Denmark); 8. Zinedine Zidane (France); 9. Marco van Basten (Netherlands); 10. Michel Platini (France).

## Newcastle set to sign Domi

John Wardle

RUDD GULLIT, in an attempt to bolster Newcastle's defence, has offered Paris St Germain £2.5 million for the 29-year-old French left-back Didier Domi.

It is expected the French club will accept the bid and Gullit also hopes to go ahead with the £5.5 million signing of the Milan winger Ibrahim Ba after a weekend trial.

Domi's arrival may signal the end of Alessandro Pistone's 18-month spell on Tyneside. The Italian, bought from Internazionale for £1.5 million, has not played a first-team game for four months because of injury but Fiorentina and Roma are keen to take him back to Italy.

Newcastle fans delivered a snub to the disgraced director Douglas Hall by voting 9-1 against his re-election to the board of the club at the annual meeting. There was also a 2-1 show of hands against Freddy Shepherd. However, this will not prevent the pair returning to the board given their majority stake in the club.

The fans also questioned Gullit's commitment to the club since he has not bought a house on Tyneside and stays in a hotel when he travels over from Amsterdam. One supporter asked if Gullit was in Ruddford today in connection with an incident involv-

ing a woman motorist's car during West Ham's Christmas party on Sunday.

Ruddock, 30, has been charged with affray and assault, 25, with criminal damage. A third man, Richard Nelson, a 33-year-old youth worker, was charged with using threatening words and behaviour. The three men were arrested after police went to Secrets nightclub in Romford.

West Ham's manager Harry Redknapp said: "If it is right that the players have misbehaved, you can be sure we will read them the riot act."

Mark Halsey, who was sacked by Hull last month, is having talks with St Mirren about the vacant manager's position at the Scottish First Division club.

Paolo Di Canio has appealed to the Premier League against Sheffield Wednesday's decision to suspend him without pay for two weeks for failing to return from Italy after being allowed home in order to bring his wife and baby daughter back to England.

Martin Gregory has appointed Les Parris as Portsmouth's chairman after vacating the post last week following death threats from fans. The 53-year-old chartered accountant, who recently returned to England after six years in America, said he had been authorised to disperse with Gregory's 97 per cent share in the club.

First Division club who are losing £40,000 a week.

## Overseas football

## Ecuador's finest slip from top to bottom in year of two halves

Chris Taylor

IT IS the time of year when a number of South American leagues reach their climax, demonstrating how the continent's bewildering organisational innovations can produce some bizarre situations.

In Ecuador, Emelec were in danger of being champions and finishing bottom in the same season. Emelec, from the second city Guayaquil, take on Liga Universitaria de Quito in the first match of the two-leg play-off final tomorrow.

The league is divided into two stages. Emelec secured their place in the play-off by finishing top after the first stage. Their play-off opponents were decided by a mini-league of the top four teams after the second stage of the season.

But Emelec had a disastrous second stage which confusingly consigned them to a four-team group battling to avoid relegation at the same time as they were preparing for the championship play-off. In the event Emelec — boosted by the return of the Bolivian international Marco Etcheberry from the US Major League — rallied to win their group and stave off ignominy although, had they finished bottom, they would not have gone down but instead lost their berth in next year's Copa Libertadores, the South American champions' cup.

In Brazil, Corinthians and Cruzeiro drew the second leg of the national league play-off

1-1 in Sao Paulo on Sunday. The first match at Cruzeiro's ground in Belo Horizonte had ended 2-2, so the series now goes to a decider, in which Corinthians will again be at home. But the Sao Paulo side need only a draw in the final game because, in the event of a draw, the title is decided on goal difference (away goals do not count double) and then by form in the regular season.

Corinthians managed to finish first.

In Colombia, Once Caldas, from the city of Manizales, finished the 50-game regular season 10 points clear of their nearest rival, Atletico Nacional of Medellin. However, the top eight teams were then divided into two semi-final groups of four.

Caldas again finished top of their group but in the second leg of the play-off final on Sunday they drew 0-0 with Deportivo Cali, having lost the first leg 4-0. Unlike in Brazil, Caldas's dominant form in the regular season counted for nothing in the play-offs.

It was Deportivo's seventh championship title. Caldas lost the title in 1980 when Colombia had an all-star pirate league outside FIFA jurisdiction, featuring the likes of Alfredo Di Stefano and the then England centre-half Neil Franklin.

The following champions have already finished: Argentina (Boca Juniors), Chile (Colo Colo), Mexico (Necaxa), Paraguay (Olimpia), Uruguay (Nacional) and Venezuela (Tachira).

## 1998 - the defining moments



Just champion... Jonathan Edwards, Steve Backley and Denise Lewis on their way to winning three of Great Britain's nine gold medals in Budapest

PHOTOGRAPH: MARK THOMPSON

## A golden glimpse of the future

Duncan Mackay on the European Championships in Budapest where British athletes topped the podium again after years of crisis

JONATHAN Edwards stood at the end of the triple-jump runway. On the other side of Budapest's famous Nepestadion on this final day had combined to help the young Steve Backley and Mick Hill were completing their laps of honour after finishing first and second in the javelin. Just setting out on their celebrations were the triumphant 4 x 400 metres relay squad, including the individual 400m champion Iwan Thomas.

In the stand sat Colin Jackson and Denise Lewis, winners the previous day of the 110m hurdles and heptathlon respectively. A few feet away were the 100m and 200m champions Darren Campbell and Dougie Walker, who also topped the podium. Edwards punched the air in delight at putting two years of problems behind him. "I'm back," he screamed.

So was British athletics. This was the team's sixth gold medal of the August weekend and ninth in total. It left them proudly atop the medal table as Europe's most powerful nation. Back home, nearly 10 million viewers had tuned in to watch the final day's action on BBC Television.

The team had flown into Hungary a week earlier, swinging in over the Danube. Outwardly the atmosphere was relaxed but everyone knew it was essential they put in a good performance. The men's team had retained the European Cup in St Petersburg earlier in the season but this was where it really counted.

No Briton had won a gold medal at a major outdoor event since Edwards at the 1996 World Championships. There had been heavy criticism of the team's lack of success at the 1996 Olympic Games and 1997 World Championships. Linford Christie, Roger Black and Sally Gunnell, the sport's most charismatic stars, had all announced their retirement.

Most disastrously, the previous October the British Athletic Federation — the sport's governing body — had placed itself in the hands of the administrators with debts of nearly £2 million. The team had arrived in Budapest only thanks to the National Lottery.

Edwards, one of the most senior figures in the team, did not underestimate how important the week was to the future of the sport in Britain. "We knew we had a lot of ground to make up because athletics had slipped in people's affections," he said.

"However unfairly, people thought the glory days of the sport were over. I remember waking up on the last day and thinking, 'It's all going to be well, something has to happen.' But it didn't."

After Edwards had col-

lected his gold medal and the national anthem had belted out again, he and Jones were ushered into a tiny refreshment room behind the press stand to give an end-of-championship briefing.

Edwards was wearing his gold medal and it glinted under the floodlights. He sat down and shook hands with David Moorcroft, who had been placed in charge of steering the sport since the collapse of the BAF.

The large British press corps was swelled by journalists from all over Europe, especially from the former powerhouses of Russia and Germany. They all had the same question: "What is the British secret? How can a country whose federation has no money produce so many talented athletes?"

Jones explained the biggest factor had been the advent of proper funding for Britain's up-and-coming athletes through the National Lottery. The previous year officials had pulled off a masterstroke by setting up a separate limited company, Performance Athletes Services, which received the £10 million Lottery money and ensured that the funds were kept away from the BAF. The sport was now beginning to reap the benefits.

When the press conference had broken up, Moorcroft stood on the steps of the main stand of the Nepestadion and thanked the party going on the track in front of him. "You know," he said to no one in particular, "I think we are in for an exciting few years."

17.99 flashed up. Edwards punched the air in delight. "I'm back," he screamed

Campbell stamped his authority on the final as his mentor watched in the BBC commentary booth. He had ended Christie's 12-year reign as European champion. And his time of 10.04sec broke his coach's championship record. "I think it's always important when the team are given a lift early on," said Max Jones, Britain's performance director. "From then on everything seemed to go perfectly. I remember waking up on the last day and thinking, 'It's all going to be well, something has to happen.' But it didn't."

After Edwards had col-

## Pools Forecast

DECEMBER 28

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP	
1 Arsenal	2 Tottenham
3 Manchester United	4 Liverpool
5 Chelsea	6 Newcastle
7 Blackburn	8 Middlesbrough
9 Southampton	10 West Ham
11 Sheffield Wednesday	12 Charlton

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION	
1 Bolton	2 Sheffield United
3 Barnsley	4 Bury
5 Gillingham	6 Grimsby
7 Luton	8 Port Vale
9 Shrewsbury	10 Walsley
11 Stockport	12 Wigan
13 Wrexham	14 York

SECOND DIVISION

1 Barnsley	2 Bolton
3 Bury	4 Gillingham
5 Grimsby	6 Luton
7 Port Vale	8 Shrewsbury
9 Sheffield United	10 Walsley
11 Wigan	12 York

THIRD DIVISION

1 Barnsley	2 Bolton
3 Bury	4 Gillingham
5 Grimsby	6 Luton
7 Port Vale	8 Shrewsbury
9 Sheffield United	10 Walsley
11 Wigan	12 York

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

1 Celtic	2 Rangers
3 Aberdeen	4 Dundee United
5 Dundee	6 St Johnstone

SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION

1 Aberdeen	2 Dundee United
3 Dundee	4 St Johnstone

SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION

1 Aberdeen	2 Dundee United
3 Dundee	4 St Johnstone

## Results

DECEMBER 28

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3 Aberdeen	4 Dundee United
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SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION

1 Aberdeen	2 Dundee United
3 Dundee	4 St Johnstone

SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION

1 Aberdeen	2 Dundee United
3 Dundee	4 St Johnstone

## Football

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3 Bury	4 Gillingham
5 Grimsby	6 Luton
7 Port Vale	8 Shrewsbury
9 Sheffield United	10 Walsley
11 Wigan	12 York

THIRD DIVISION

1 Barnsley	2 Bolton
3 Bury	4 Gillingham
5 Grimsby	6 Luton
7 Port Vale	8 Shrewsbury
9 Sheffield United	10 Walsley
11 Wigan	12 York

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

1 Celtic	2 Rangers
3 Aberdeen	4 Dundee United
5 Dundee	6 St Johnstone

SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION

1 Aberdeen	2 Dundee United
3 Dundee	4 St Johnstone

SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION

1 Aberdeen	2 Dundee United
3 Dundee	4 St Johnstone

## Cricket

DECEMBER 28

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP	
1 Arsenal	2 Tottenham
3 Manchester United	4 Liverpool
5 Chelsea	6 Newcastle
7 Blackburn	8 Middlesbrough
9 Southampton	10 West Ham
11 Sheffield Wednesday	12 Charlton

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION	
1 Bolton	2 Sheffield United
3 Barnsley	4 Bury
5 Gillingham	6 Grimsby
7 Luton	8 Port Vale
9 Shrewsbury	10 Walsley
11 Stockport	12 Wigan
13 Wrexham	14 York

SECOND DIVISION

1 Barnsley	2 Bolton
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SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION

1 Aberdeen	2 Dundee United
3 Dundee	4 St Johnstone

## Fixtures

DECEMBER 29

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3 Manchester United	4 Liverpool
5 Chelsea	6 Newcastle
7 Blackburn	8 Middlesbrough
9 Southampton	10 West Ham
11 Sheffield Wednesday	12 Charlton

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION	
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3 Dundee	4 St Johnstone

SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION

1 Aberdeen	2 Dundee United
3 Dundee	4 St Johnstone

## Team talk

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M



Cricket

Tour match: Australian XI v England XI

# Blewett ties knot with England's bowlers

Mike Selvey sees an Australian reserve continue his love affair in Hobart

There is a feeling that Greg Blewett, Yorkshire's new overseas player, spends so much time in the company of English bowlers that his dismissal would constitute a breakdown in a relationship and be followed by a solicitor's letter, division of property and joint custody of the kids.

The two parties were on the best of terms for much of yesterday, as Blewett completed an unbeaten century before the Australian XI captain Darren Lehmann, Yorkshire's previous overseas incumbent, in the interests of keeping a potentially moribund match alive declared shortly after tea, conceding a

deficit of 176 in the knowledge that a mischievous follow-on would not be enforced.

With John Crawley (63) and Mark Butcher (89 not out) taking advantage of declaration bowling, hustling the match along but doing little for their personal predicaments of form, England had reached 185 for two by the close, a lead of 242.

Blewett tends not to miss out against English teams, and certainly not on slow, flat pitches and in blustery conditions that buffet howlers around, making rhythm and control difficult whether into the breeze or down it.

His first three Ashes Tests each produced a hundred in 1997, he made another for Australia A in a one-day international four years ago, scored 143 for South Australia earlier in the tour and now 189 not out, the highest individual score against England this winter. It was constructed over 54 hours.

He gave one chance, when 115, but otherwise there were few false shots, and those generally only when he attacked Peter Such's off-spin, with the occasional resulting misfire falling tantalisingly into gaps. There were 15 fours in all.

Until well into the afternoon it looked as if the England bowlers, never less than three — or on this occasion almost four — come in a rush. It began with Elliott who, having made 81, tried to turn Ben Hollis to leg but merely spooned a catch from the leading edge over the bowler's head, where Tudor (mid-on) and Fraser (mid-off) did their best to make a Horlicks of it before Tudor's common sense intervened.

Cory Richards then came and two balls later went, leg before to Hollis, a nice irony given that on the second day the bowler himself had sat through a long partnership between Atherton and Graeme Hick, only to be dismissed first ball.

Lehmann then followed, brilliantly caught low down at first slip by Atherton as he drove a wide ball, and Hollis then held a straightforward return catch immediately offered by Blewett from the next ball, four wickets would have fallen in 13 balls.

Law and Blewett then added 66 for the fourth wicket before Law missed his pull against Mark Ramprakash and skied to midwicket on the tea interval. Lehmann pulled the plug shortly afterwards.

For some days there had been rumours that Lehmann was about to supersede Ricky Ponting in the Test side, and yesterday's announcement from the Australian selectors confirmed this. It must have been a close thing, for Ponting is held in high regard and



Mark time... Butcher on his way to an unbeaten 85 that helped England to a lead of 342 but it was off second-grade bowlers and true timing still eludes him

STU FORSTER

Scoreboard

ENGLAND XI: First innings 489-6 dec (M A Atherton 210, G A Hick 125, M R Ramprakash 65, Steven 3-64).	
AUSTRALIAN XI: First innings (overnight 30-0).	
M T G Elliott c Tudor b Hollis	0
G S Blewett not out	189
C J Richards bow b Hollis	0
S G Law c Blewett b Ramprakash	27
M G Bown not out	43
Extras (b, lb, nb, rs)	14
Total (for 4 dec, 77 overs)	288
Fall of wickets: 206, 207, 212, 278.	
Did not bat: A C Gilchrist, P R Hain, B P Johnson, M S Kempster, G R Roberts.	
Bowling: Tudor 14-3-54-0; Fraser 20-3-63-0; Such 15-3-55-0; Elliott 11-3-33-1; Hollis 10-1-55-2; Ramprakash 6-0-29-1; Hick 1-0-0-0.	
ENGLAND XI: Second innings (overnight 115-0).	
To bat: M A Atherton, M R Ramprakash, G A Hick, W K Hogg, A J Tudor, A R C Fraser, P M Storer.	
Bowling: Tudor 7-2-29-0; Law 9-1-36-0; Lehmann 7-1-45-1; Bown 10-1-47-0; Elliott 5-0-16-1.	
Umpires: S O Davies and P Parker.	

## Glamorgan sign Kallis

JACQUES KALLIS, the South Africa all-rounder, will join Glamorgan next season. The 29-year-old has agreed a two-year contract with the county.

Glamorgan have obtained permission from the United Cricket Board of South Africa for the release of Kallis, who will link up again with his Western Province coach Duncan Fletcher.

Kallis takes the overseas place of Pakistan's fast bowler Waqar Younis, who played a major part in the 1997 Championship win but

whose 1998 season was disrupted by injury.

Glamorgan's captain Matthew Maynard said of the former middle-order player: "It is just about the best signing we could have made. Jacques has proved in the last 18 months or so just what a good all-rounder cricketer he is, be it Test matches or one-day internationals.

"With Tony Cottis and Gary Butcher having left, we have moved quickly to strengthen the side and I have no doubt at all that Jacques will make a significant impact with us."

Maynard brushed aside worries that Kallis might not be available for a large part of next season because of the World Cup.

"I'm not too concerned," he said. "We know that, even if South Africa make the final, he is going to be available to play in two-thirds of our matches, perhaps more, and such is his talent and commitment he is bound to make a massive contribution."

Glamorgan's secretary Mike Fatkin added: "We are delighted Jacques has agreed to join us for the next couple of years at least."

## Gloucestershire dig in over claim that Walsh approached rivals

COURTNEY WALSH and Gloucestershire were no closer to settling their differences yesterday with the county resting their claim that the West Indies fast bowler had approached Glamorgan.

Walsh, agitated at Gloucestershire's withdrawal of their offer of a new two-year contract, has denied that he had been in contact with other counties. But Gloucestershire insist the paceman was investigating a possible move to Glamorgan.

Though the Welsh county announced yesterday the

signing of the South African Jacques Kallis as their overseas player, Gloucestershire claimed: "Glamorgan have confirmed that they were approached by [Walsh's agent] Ken Trowbridge to discuss terms for 1999."

Gloucestershire maintain that it was the possible selection of their captain Mark Alleyne for England's World Cup squad, together with the changes to the structure of domestic cricket, which made them rethink their existing offer to Walsh.

## Chanderpaul in control

WEST INDIES' four-day game against South Africa A in Pietermaritzburg is heading for a draw after Shivnarine Chanderpaul took his overnight score to 182 as the tourists were dismissed for 375.

At the close of the third day South Africa A had made 188 for four in reply with the opener Sven Koenig anchoring the innings with a patient 52 from 132 balls.

Chanderpaul, 132 not out overnight of 256 for six, was last man out having batted for 382 minutes, faced 302 balls and hit 26 fours and a

six. He was bowled by the left-arm seamer Charl Willoughby, having put on 46 for the eighth wicket with Nixon McLean and 44 for the ninth with Franklin Rose. Half of each of the first two days was lost to the weather.

Zimbabwe's first away-series victory came after the third and final Test against Pakistan was abandoned as a draw without a ball bowled after five days of fog in Faisalabad. Zimbabwe won the first Test at Peshawar by seven wickets and the second at Lahore was also abandoned because of fog.

A New Zealand XI overpowered an Indian XI in a limited-overs match in Durban.

The exhibition match was played on what would have been the fourth day of the abandoned first Test. New Zealand, batting first, hammered 304 for six in 50 overs and the tourists replied with 238 for eight, Vankar Laxman hitting a bold 82, to lose by 66 runs.

Stephen Fleming hit 73 off 64 balls and Craig McMillan 46. The pair's stand of 95 for the fourth wicket set up the victory.

Equestrianism

## Showtime for Skelton

John Kerr at Olympia

NICK SKELTON, who has been less in the limelight than usual at the Olympic Showjumping Championships in London, enjoyed success at last year's day in the Eurosport Christmas Hamper contest on Virtual Village Showjumping.

In a lively speed class, with the lead constantly changing hands, Skelton and his Olympic mare displayed the right combination of pace and accuracy to score more than a second to spare.

Prospects of a rare British one-two-three faded when Ireland's Trevor Coyle ran into

second place on Vivaldi ahead of Di Lampedo on Equity.

Switzerland's Beat Mandli won the P & O Events six-bar class on Gravit by jumping four clear rounds over fences that got higher and progressively difficult. Mandli has been riding the eight-year-old, owned by the Austrian Thomas Fruhmann, for only a few weeks.

Sharing second place were Andrew Davies on Satchmo and Germany's Rene Febel on Le Patron. Earlier Davies, 24, Raymond Brooks-Ward Trophy, presented in memory of a man who did much to develop Olympia into a hugely popular pre-Christmas event.

It goes to the under-25 rider judged to have shown the greatest potential, Davies, who could scarcely conceal his disappointment when losing the ride on Hopes Are High to the more experienced Skelton, is the first man to receive the award since its inception in 1992.

On Sunday night Michael Whitaker landed his second success of the show on the highly promising nine-year-old Virtual Village Eklon. One of only two Britons in a 13-horse barrage, he overtook Brazil's world champion Rodrigo Pessoa on Gandini Llanos by a split second for the fastest of only four clear rounds.

Motor Racing

## Honda testing for Formula One return in 2000

Alan Henry

HONDA are to take a leaf out of Ferrari's book by building their own car and engine for a return to grand-prix racing. "We have now started testing a car in preparation for our participation in Formula One, probably from 2000," said Hiroaki Yoshino, president of Honda Motors.

The development chassis was tried for the first time last week at the Fiorano circuit in northern Italy where the Dutch driver Jos Verstappen put it through its paces. He is expected to continue with a full programme of development work with the chassis, manufactured by the Italian company Dallara, through 1999.

Honda originally participated in Formula One with their own car from 1964 to 1968, during which time they won two out of 35 grands prix.

The company were then absent until 1994, when they resumed as an engine supplier, first to Williams and later to McLaren, Lotus and Tyrrell, providing the engines for six world championships before stepping back from the front line at the end of 1992.

Honda are establishing a new racing headquarters at Bracknell, where the former Tyrrell technical director Harvey Postlethwaite will preside over the team developing the race car.

American Football

## Falcons rally for sick coach

Mark Tran in New York

THE illness of Dan Reeves, the Atlanta Falcons coach, gave the side an extra incentive and they won in style, coming from behind to beat the Detroit Lions and clinch their first NFC West title in 20 years.

Reeves was readmitted to hospital on Sunday after heart surgery. The 54-year-old, who has transformed the Falcons from perennial losers into strutting winners in just over a year, watched his team rally past the Lions with two

fourth-quarter touchdowns to win 24-17.

Reeves had assured his players last weekend that he would be back for the playoffs. The Falcons responded with an emotional performance. After their victory Eugene Robinson, the safety, yelled in front of the television cameras and microphones: "Coach, that was for you. You just rest and we'll see you for the playoffs."

The Falcons, with 15 wins and two defeats, pushed the San Francisco 49ers into second place. Reeves should return in time to replace his

assistant Rich Brooks for their first play-off game. He is expected to help with the gameplan for the finale with the Miami Dolphins.

The 49ers fell to their unaccustomed second place in the NFC West by losing 24-21 to the New England Patriots. The 49ers scored 21 points in the first half but buckled in the second as the Patriots knocked off 24 points.

The win put the Patriots into the playoffs for a wild-card spot along with the Buffalo Bills from the AFC East. Although they lost 17-10 to a resurgent New York Jets, the

Bills return to the play-offs under Doug Flutie, the veteran quarterback.

The Washington Redskins will not be heading for the play-offs after losing their first seven games. But since their disastrous start the Redskins have astonished everybody by chalking up one victory after another, winning six out of their last eight games. A victory at Dallas next Sunday would make them the first NFL team to win seven games after dropping their first seven.

"Despite what people think, these players have worked hard," said Norv Turner, the Redskins coach. "I don't know if there is a team in the league that was down more. We had 16 games and we screwed the first part of this up, so we figured let's make the most out of it, and the effort people put in helped."

Turner may win a reprieve after fans were calling for his head earlier in the season. John Kent Cooke, the team president, appears less inclined to heed the "impeach Norv" movement.

The Minnesota Vikings continue to trample the opposition. The Vikings crushed the Jacksonville Jaguars 50-10. Randall Cunningham fractured his left (non-throwing) hand early but still threw three TD passes before being replaced. He is unlikely to miss any playing time.

Play-off qualifications: Minnesota Vikings, Jacksonville Jaguars, Dallas Cowboys, Denver Broncos, Buffalo Bills, New England Patriots, San Francisco 49ers, New York Jets, Atlanta Falcons, Green Bay Packers.

Consolation games: Miami Dolphins, Tennessee Oilers, Arizona Cardinals, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, New York Giants.



Patriot games... Robert Edwards, left, on the charge for New England

MATTHEW STOCKMAN

Ice Hockey

## Struggling Riverkings remain buoyant

Vic Batchelder

ALEX DAMPIER is quietly optimistic approaching tonight's home game against the second-placed Cardiff Devils, despite Newcastle Riverkings' lowly position and their 6-1 home defeat by Sheffield at the weekend.

"We out-chanced them and created an awful lot but didn't score enough; the puck just wouldn't go in the net," he said. "Against Cardiff, if we get the same number of chances and same commitment, I can see us getting the two points."

However, with Riverkings

currently one off the bottom of a league in which Cardiff have lost only three of their 18 games to date, a Newcastle victory will be a major shock. Devils will have their forward Mike MacWilliam back from suspension while their new defenceman Derry Menard impressed on his debut in Saturday's 5-2 home win over Ayr.

Such mid-term recruiting is a luxury beyond Dampier and his general manager Mike O'Connor. They moved from Sheffield during the summer to take over a team now run by the Superleague while a new owner is sought for the franchise relinquished by the Newcastle Sporting Club organisers.

tion at the end of last season.

"Not having the budget to work with makes it tough. But we knew what we were getting into when we took on this outfit, so we can never use that as an excuse. We're a team that has to fight every game. Doesn't matter who we play, it's a slog."

On attendance Dampier admitted "it's been harder than expected", although he claimed Newcastle are "20 per cent up on last year and gaining ground (they now average 2,900). Last week's malshot for the upcoming games — we put 110,000 letters out — will hopefully build more on to that."



Record bids fail at Lingfield, page 13

Blewett makes England suffer, page 15

Fifa threat to home nations, page 14

Kallis signs for Glamorgan, page 15

# SportsGuardian

Austria sweep the board



The Herminator is back... Hermann Maier followed in the tracks of his hero Franz Klammer by leading a record Austrian sweep of the top nine places in a World Cup super-G in Innsbruck yesterday. It was the first major race held on the Patscherkofel slope since the Austrian Klammer's downhill run for Olympic gold in 1976. Skiing, sport in brief, page 23

## Simple need to be one of the Bhoys



Jim White

FOR a moment it looked like the most intriguing ticket since Ken Clarke joined forces with John Redwood in an attempt to keep the Conservative Party leadership in the hands of a man with a full head of hair.

Jim Kerr, the musician who loves the game so much he became a pomp rocker simply so that he could play in the biggest football stadiums of the world, and Kenny Dalglish, currently at a loose end now that his BT obligations have been fulfilled, had formed a consortium hoping to buy Celtic.

Even more excitingly for any Celts with a fondness for loud rock with deep and meaningless lyrics, Bono of U2 had pledged his support. If only Fish, once of Marillion, could have been persuaded on board, the team of Celtic bombasts would have been unstoppable.

Celtic's majority shareholder Fergus McCann, however, clearly prefers the volume control on his music centre well down. Over the weekend he dismissed Kerr's consortium with a curt statement about how theirs was not a serious bid, that the finance behind it was inadequate and that he was not prepared to waste time on it any more.

Such was the tone of contempt ringing from every sentence it would have been no surprise if McCann had added that he had always preferred Simply Red anyway.

For Kerr, this must have been more than frustrating, as his consortium had yet to table a formal bid. Moreover, the only reason he had formed his partnership with Dalglish in the first place was because McCann had publicly expressed his desire to sell: this was not a predatory takeover but a response to a widely publicised request. For McCann apparently to throw out the only bid he has received without even talking through the details seems quibbly to say the least.

"Realistically this is the last chance for the club to be taken over by those with the fans' interests at heart," Kerr said when interviewed last week for Radio 5's Dream

Team (when, naturally, he was selecting a side full of his favourite Rangers players). "I honestly think he [McCann] is disappointed that we haven't smoked out a rival bid yet."

There is something in this prognosis. It is inconceivable that McCann has watched developments in football finance over the past three months and not been intrigued. The autumnal flurry of interest in leading clubs by media groups with deep pockets has been put on hold only by the referral of Sky's bid for Manchester United to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

If that purchase is cleared in March, then Newcastle will not be alone in following the trend. With the potential of being the biggest club in Scotland and Ireland, Celtic seem ideally placed to be caught up in the inflationary spiral created by those seeking to get their hands on television rights.

Compared to that sort of purchase, Kerr's bid is an old-fashioned one. The Glasgow boy made good, the fan who wants to show love of his club by buying something rather more substantial than a season ticket, he is but a sophisticated update of the butcher who buys his local football club.

Kerr's motives are transparent: he wants to see Celtic re-established as a leading European player. And, judging by the way he talks about his club, one gets the feeling he would not mind if his bank balance went west in the process.

THE other week, for instance, before the last Old Firm game, it was clear that if Celtic lost, and slipped 13 points behind Rangers, McCann's position would be sufficiently weakened that he might be prepared to take any bid, even one he held in contempt. "For a moment I was in a dilemma," Kerr says. "I realised it would be in my interests if my club lost."

It did not last long. Since Celtic's huge victory, at Simple Minds soundchecks, instead of intoning the traditional "one-two, one-two" mantra beloved of rock roadies everywhere, Kerr has started using "five-one".

Asked to choose between an owner who thinks like that and one who talks about football as being the core business of his new asset, fans would be unanimous in their selection. But, if there is one lesson we can take from British football in 1998, it is this: what the fans want is the last thing that matters.

## Bath sights on Hill and Cooke

Robert Armstrong says Robinson's job is under threat from two former colleagues

LOUCESTER's Richard Hill and the former England manager Geoff Cooke are the favourites to take over from the beleaguered Bath coach Andy Robinson, who is under internal pressure to resign.

The former Bath teammates Hill and Robinson will be coaching rivals in the West Country derby at Kingsholm on Saturday week, a game Bath must win if their coach is to gain an 11th-hour reprieve.

Hill, a former captain of Bath and England, has been targeted by directors, committee men and members as the man to halt the club's dramatic decline. Last weekend's home defeat by Saracens was their fifth successive reverse, their worst run in more than a decade of league rugby.

The 57-year-old Cooke also has his advocates, particu-

larly among those staff and supporters who want to see a return to strong management in the Jack Rowell style. "There are two schools of opinion here about the best way forward in the event of Andy stepping down," said a

long-standing club official yesterday. "Many people believe Hill has the knowledge and the ability to restore the old Bath family ethos which has virtually disappeared."

"But an influential minority, including some recent ex-players, would prefer to make a clean break with the past in the best interests of the club, which is where Cooke, who has no Bath baggage to worry

about, could come into the equation."

Last Saturday Robinson insisted that he was not about to resign, possibly for the good reason that he could hardly expect a substantial pay-off if he tore up his own contract.

Nevertheless, it seems that the patience of the Bath owner Andrew Brownword has reached breaking point. Two years ago, when he sacked Jon Hill as director of rugby, Bath's league record was not as mediocre as now.

Whether the 37-year-old Hill, regarded as the most progressive coach in the country and tipped as a future England coach, would be willing to walk out on Gloucester, where he has enjoyed three happy years, is an intriguing question in the light of his past loyalty to Bath.

Cooke, who gave Bath players such as Jeremy Guscott and Phil de Glanville their first caps, is a free agent and also one of the few professional coaches in England with a proven record of suc-

cess. He guided Bedford to promotion from Premiership Two last season but resigned two weeks ago because of the club's cash-flow problems.

This time last year Robinson's future at the Recreation Ground was similarly under threat but he laid the doubts to rest, at least temporarily, by taking Bath to a European Cup triumph at the expense of the holders Brive. This season, though, the game's administrators have denied Bath the chance to defend that European crown.

Some welcome good news for Bath last night was that Andy Nicol, their scrum-half who tore a medial ligament last Saturday, said he should return in February. It was feared he would miss the rest of the season.

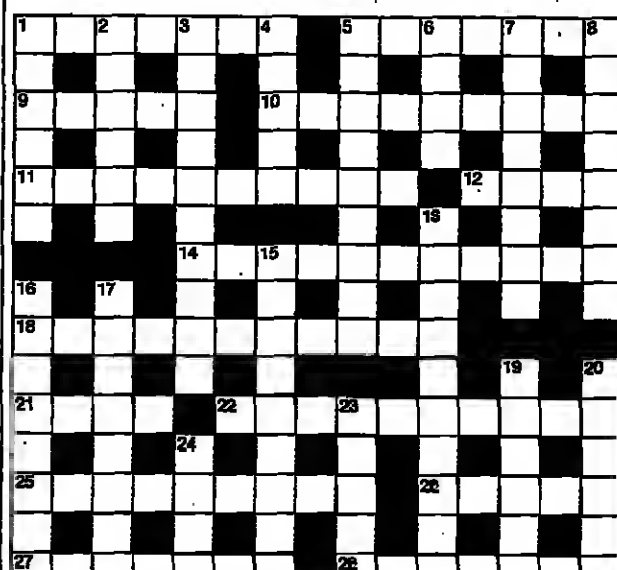
**Robinson's Bath coaching records:** Appointed January 1997; Premiership in Premiership, beaten by Leicester in championship of Premiership Cup; Robinson's league record: Won 5, lost 2, drew 1. 1997-98: European champions (beat Brive 18-15 in final in Bordeaux). Finished third in Premiership, beaten by Richmond in fifth round of Tynes's Cup. League record: Won 12, lost 5. 1998-99: League record: Currently 10th, Won 7, lost 6.



In demand... the coaches Richard Hill and Geoff Cooke

## Guardian Crossword No 21,464

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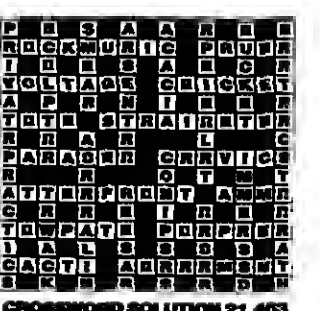
### Across

- 1 Got up? (7)
- 5 Saw one type of ale absorbing pump turnover (7)
- 9 Carp at stoker taking English (5)
- 10 Made swell FBI agents infiltrate at due process (9)
- 11 Early sage isn't commonly a herb revered in Moscow (5,5)
- 12 It's grim to be a busy person, they say (4)
- 14 Ruddy Miss Lee answered back! (4,7)
- 18 Adjust picture even when blinkered? (11)
- 21 Proper bishop dismissed a fellow ecclesiastic (4)
- 22 Severely gruesome environment for the endlessly devout (10)
- 25 I went out with sister and was overwhelmed (9)

- 26 Presume interference without Rattigan's letters? (5)
- 27 The 'd' of Cupid is particularly welcome (7)
- 28 Squirmed, having left wearing a hairpiece (7)

### Down

- 1 Adulterate drugs Lincoln first dredged up (6)
- 2 Time off in the city? It makes me sick (6)
- 3 Short Saracen captured filer to get Greek island (10)
- 4 Tot with an ace to play (5)
- 6 Tentatively clip a short cigar found at the opera (9)
- 8 Was sorry to have sounded cheeky (4)
- 7 Rear pot up on the Stock Exchange? (9)
- 8 Cunning Dole entertained little Miss Wordsworth in



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 21,463

- 1 surroundings of great wealth (8)
- 13 God-given pole designed for building (10)
- 15 United no longer content to accept rising violation (9)
- 16 Joking parish priest ousted absterger in giving up (8)
- 17 Put forward for some cash? (8)
- 19 Handy to have in a house fully-furnished (6)
- 20 Cross at leaving birthday bash? (5)
- 23 Settle on two points up on the index (5)
- 24 It's used for shaping puffs, say (4)

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Embarrassing questions surrounding the past of the world's third largest media group

## G2 cover story

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The weather in Europe

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**Women**  
Fat isn't funny anymore — the rebranding of Jo Brand  
7

**Health**  
Christmas makes you sick  
10

**Plus education**  
The perils of classroom sex  
12

The Guardian Tuesday December 22 1998 Armando Iannucci 5 • Arts 8-9 • Quick Crossword 15 • Radio, TV & Weather 16

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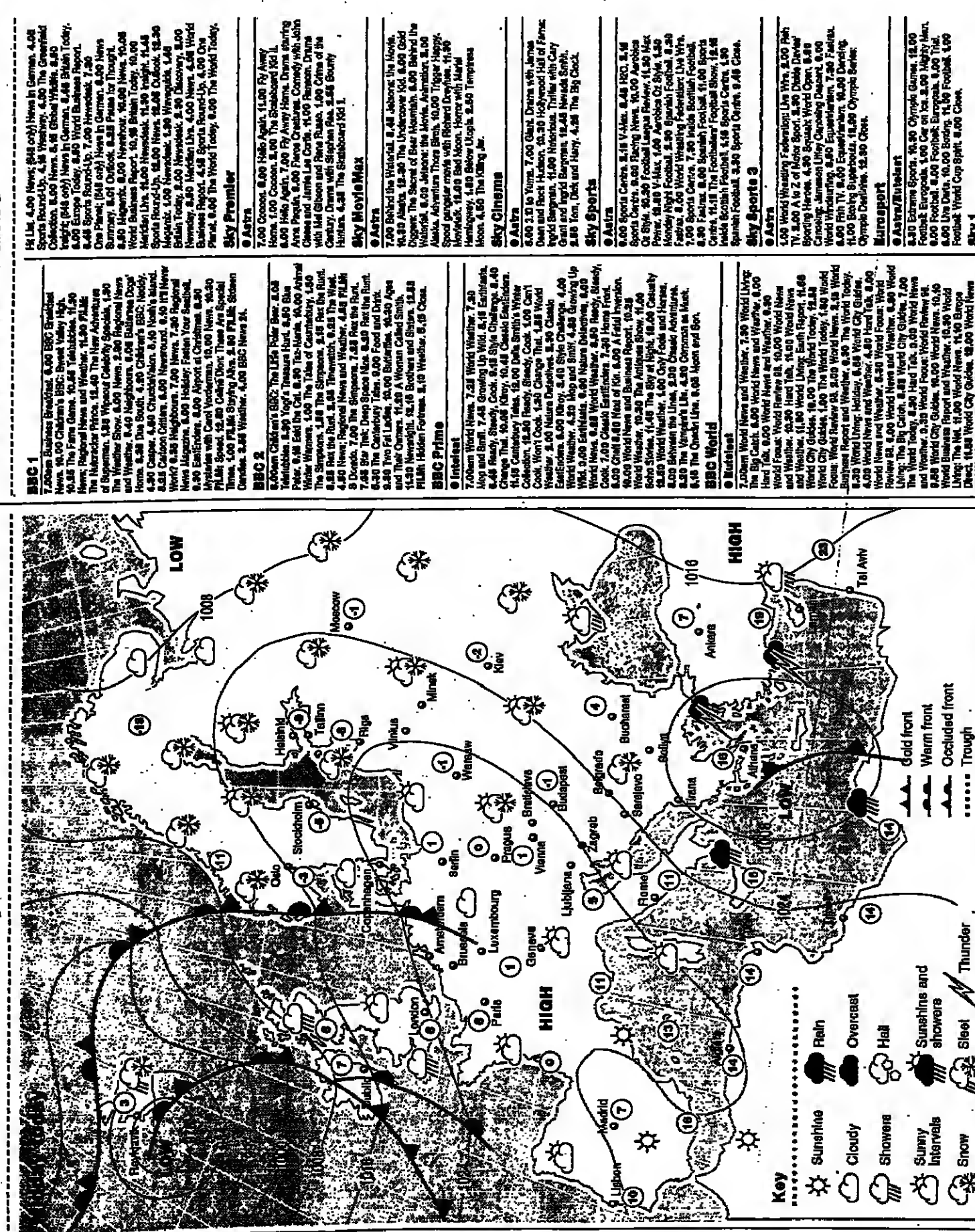
**Carl Bernstein and Marco Politi**

**On Bertelsmann's bookshelf**

**These books were all published by the same company. One it would rather forget.**

16 • Tuesday December 22 1998 The Guardian

# The weather in Europe



**Forecast for the cities**

City	Today	Tomorrow	Friday	Saturday
Amsterdam	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
Antwerp	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
Berlin	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
Brussels	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
Cologne	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
Düsseldorf	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
Frankfurt	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
Hamburg	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
London	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
Madrid	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny
Munich	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
Nice	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny
Paris	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
Rome	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny
Stockholm	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
Vienna	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
Zurich	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy

**European weather outlook**

Europe will be under the influence of a low pressure system moving from the Atlantic towards the continent. This will bring in a cold front and a period of rain and snow. The weather will be cloudy and cold throughout the week.







The Guardian Tuesday December 22 1998

# Frank

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# Pass notes

**The Jimmy Young Programme**

**Aggi 25.**



... time for some Johnny Morkis ... Nope. On today's show we'll hear from Collins Dink, The Lighthouse Family, Luther Vandross ... Followed by some big band tunes? As if. That's for old fogies. Exactly. Plus 27's target audience, surely? Not any more. The BBC wants older to retire gracefully to the armchair, drives of Radio 3 and 4. Radio 2 is for growy youngsters now. Like who? New daytime DJ Des Lynam, "yoo" presenter Mark Lazarus and piano hanker Joole Holland. Plus over-36s seeking refuge from Radio 1. So where does Jimmy not-so-young fit into the new set-up? He doesn't. According to senior sources at the BBC, Jim is unlikely to see out his career with such a high profile.

They're trying to get rid of him?": He was told his show "didn't have a cat in hell's chance" of lasting, but that was a quarter of a century ago. So what's newer? Not Jimmy. That's the problem. At 75, he's old enough to be grandfather to the target audience.

And what's the official line? Radio 2 has "no intention" of dumping the septuagenarian broadcaster.

Which means TITVN. Sorry? It's for now.

But we've not resolved the bottom of the page yet. No, TITVN is one of the IVF Project's popular catchphrases, along with other well-worn favorites such as "Orb we jolly well go".

So where will Jimmy jolly well go? A return to his Jimmy era as Radio

tion that such research was tainted. The German companies concerned have now come open in their attitude to the past and in their willingness to support genuinely historical research. It would be a pity if they closed their ears to historical evidence as a result of ill-informed criticism.

Berndtman chairman Michael Hoffmann promised that the three historical commissions investigating its history would include an American, one with a Jewish background. There would also be a second panel, that would ensure the independence of the historians' work. All findings would be published without any restrictions or company censorship.

What will they tell us? That other German industrial concerns cooperating throughout the Nazi era, continued in some degree to the

in broadcasting ways, mainly as a tribute to the answer to Frank Sinatra.

**And now that Of Blue Eyes is out of the picture ...** Exactly. The pop charts could once again thrill to the sounds of classic Number One hits such as Top Young, The Man From Laramie and, er, Unchained Melody.

**And an appearance on the Radio 2 playlist?** No, they prefer Robson and Jerome.

**Not to be confused with Jim my Savile, John Peel.**

**Do say "BYN (bye for now)."**

**Don't say "Good riddance."**

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			to help explain their life		

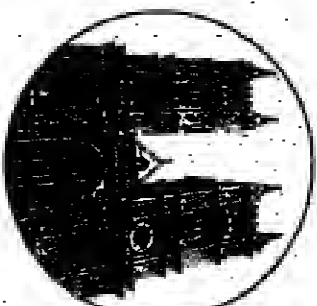
**JOIN THE  
Senior Class**

Due to financial problems and expanded costs for maintenance and other expenses, the University/Industry Cooperative Company, 1000 W. 14th St., Des Moines, IA 50319, has decided to suspend its function, which has been an essential support for the year, and for the summer.

Students who plan to attend the University/Industry Cooperative Company will receive a refund of their dues. For further details, call 523-8894, or E-1-2333. The company's address, 1000 W. 14th St., Des Moines, IA 50319, is the mailing address. The closing date is 10/1/87.



100 Years



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# What the butler saw

Burrell would only confirm that he agreed to leave "I had accepted the terms of my redundancy," a 12-month paying embargo on what he said about it, in no cozier context with disfigure closely linked to the process, but turned it down.



He confessed he could "still feel her presence." "I think the spirit of this wife strongly denied."

She was so suspicious, no concerned that there wouldn't be any problems for the school. It felt like a witch-hunt, as if the accusation was so heinous that everyone else must've believed the accuser. And the irony is he knew he had so much to lose."

W  
het is the true bene-  
mark of literary  
greatness? The



Prose maestro John Creeo (left) couldn't speak for George Orwell (far left) and his "rather ordinary effort", but was moderately happy with his "rather brilliant piece"

General Certificate of Secondary Education  
English  
Paper 1 Tier H (Higher)  
Tuesday 2 June 1998 1.30pm, 1.50pm

**Section A1 Reading**

Read item 1, the newspaper article *Headwaters*, and item 2, the extract from *Chicago Chronicle* about the same topic. Then answer questions 1–5. Write *True* or *False* for questions 1–4 and *Yes* or *No* for question 5.

1 Read item 1, the newspaper article *Headwaters*, and item 2, the extract from *Chicago Chronicle* about the same topic. Then answer questions 1–5. Write *True* or *False* for questions 1–4 and *Yes* or *No* for question 5.

**G**iven that the NEAB must have initially dispatched all ever-finding something of merit to students who took the GCSE exam, I can only imagine their

complaints. And, on average, 15 or 16-year-olds had to be restricted to the English A-Level syllabus. And as for my booting: they are strictly for post-graduate students.

When I was asked to write about the NEAB, I thought I would have to write about the shame that's passed. I would have loved to let him know how much of the success he owed to me.

Now to the bit you must all be been waiting for. It's completely true that I was writing with a feature in an English exam, and most students only ever get to hear the interpretations of their teachers or other academics. But can you see the definitive truth in my — the model answer. Forget the windy swally "an

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one hand this, on the other hand that "fence-sitting" for once there is a categorical right and wrong. I'll assume that you need no help with part A of the question - what sorts of people are most likely to find themselves homeless and what has been done to tackle the problems of homelessness since the 1980s? - as it's a matter of simple comprehension. Part B


**P**art C is much more interesting. Question What are the writers (Crace and Orwell) setting out to do? Answer: Make a living. Question How do Crace and Orwell present their information. Answer: Crace — very well indeed! Orwell — much too long-winded.

Orwell uses the metaphor of a hammer to show how Crates has the confidence to be direct. Orwell feels the has to come on all Florida and loses any sense of formality. Question: How successful are Crates and Orwell? Answer: Crates is very successful, Orwell tries hard but can't do better.

There, I've given my all. I know it's more than most of you deserve, but I need it now have a duty to share my genius. But now I must lie down and rest.

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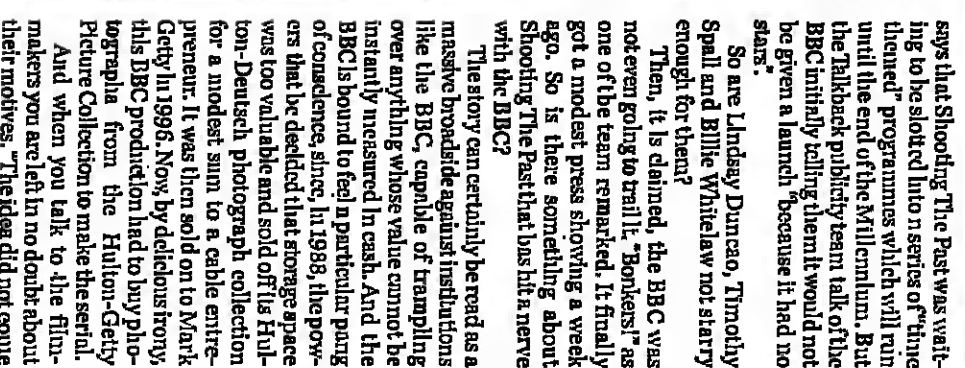









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familiar?**



Spall (above) plays one of those key but bolsie people that managements love to hate

ance and commentary is just too uncomfortable. While for others there is a simple language barrier, that's not the case for Shalhin. But there is also an insight problem, says Shalhin. "How do I say that's the right way? When you reach a certain level, it's harder to imagine what it's like sitting in the audience as an average concertgoer. But to do that kind of thing requires that you think that way," Shalhin recognizes he does understand the punters' problems and be- comes to them before, during and after concerts — whatever the situation requires.

"This series is designed to help people to listen to music, really to listen to it, to understand some of the principles and, at the same time, to come away with a greater enjoyment and sense of well-being. It will be part education, part music appreciation, part entertainment...."

No reason that you might think, but Shalhin said, the first task is to accept the musical moment first, since Shalhin organized up the strings, brass and wood wind players, the brass and wood wind have not to educate the public about the music they hear.


And still, despite these opportunities to better themselves, despite the unexpected case of access to music, audiences at concerts are surprisingly less musically educated than before.

That's because, in the words of Shalhin,

Sheldon refuses to entertain the suggestion that classical music is dead, although he does acknowledge that orchestral concerts have lost their appeal. But how do you dip potential patrons the line to choose the symphony concert over the dogyard, a trip to the cinema, or a night in a nightclub? Sheldon's new series would be a good start. He holds off the entire, starting to stop tour with children, including the amish and those who never heard of the symphony. But it's better, Ray's better, and Steve Keeler's handpicking among the new music.

He has taken great pains to pitch content and style to appeal not only as well as informed music lovers. The program notes are got out of you, like a lifetime aide. When he was sent the cassette tape of his first performance, he said, "I don't know what to do with it, I don't know why they think that, and why I have come to cause that reaction."

10



leave, the company has not been able to capture their knowledge, expertise and information. It is not the sort of thing you can put on computers."

**John Hammond**, producer of *Schooling The Pests*, also worked in the BBC in the 1960s with *Michael* *Wearing* (from *From The Blackmines Of Paradise To The North*), *Shooting The Pests* with the best of people who are able to make connections between things Hammond calls "people who have incredible, vivid imaginations and are a font of knowledge. Such people don't fit to any narrow mould and are not easily pigeon-holed. A lot of people I edited out simply because the BBC have gone freelance or retired because there was an ethical problem to which everybody works then to which everybody works which does not make now. It has been discarded for the sake of accountability. Yes, I know the BBC paid to reform, but there was this case that the baby went out with the bath water.

the Supercenter, some excellent conductors have leapt the set of the stadium change. They strutted on to the podium to talk listeners through unfamiliar music, including in a semi-quave from back-breaking music to audience-friendly guide Leonard Slatkin, the American conductor, currently running the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, is a wizard at it. His understated knack at engaging the public has now won him 10 platinum programs on Radio 10 this Christmas. The lone joyous singing solo, Discovering African With Leonard Slatkin, is, he explains, "the MTV for the radio."

Another conductor, the Polish composer and conductor who for years commanded a weekly talking-show-cum-cast on Radio 9, was a thrillingly soothing voice, but to sound as if he's things kept the tie on. And, if history repeats, he never from David to top ya Frank Sinatra and boss you.

Is the Radio 3 audience ready for Slatkin? They showed with a frosty bunch they could be the last time an American voice with known eclectic tastes — Paul Kneibach — was heard to help even the audience. He had to go. But growing numbers of conductors are now reaching down from the podium to make friends with the punters.

\*  
Not that all can or want to do it. The ones with frosty puns.

background of the Royal Festival Hall before a morning rehearsal with the Philharmonia. Siskind quotes Leonard Bernstein, another gifted communicator: "We live a society that leans a lot of music but doesn't really listen to it."

grammes, he teaches the other two masked budding blues – "molded and harmony – [followed by counterpoint, then 80 minutes on the symphony and concerto, rounded off with an hour on interplay of rock and pop to unfamiliar ears and how to listen to unfamiliar music. And he ends his set with examples, including jazz, pop and world music. "I grew up in a house where all music was just music – there were no labels," he says.

And while he may sound laid-back on the radio, there's a blazing energy underneath, apparent in the multi-foot-stomping when you sit down to talk to him. He puns about the presentation with comfiable OAS. Jimmy Kresenauer to be the best that what they are about to hear

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here — not to make lots of money or go up the ladder.

"I used work in the BBC's grammarophone library. There was the same problem. It was probably the best sound library in the world, but it was restructured three or four times — scaled down. Lots of the old people

**Peter Kingston n**  
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